



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

James Lick School Takes Another Hit

Attempted Poisoning of Teacher Results in Arrest of Four Students

By Heidi Anderson

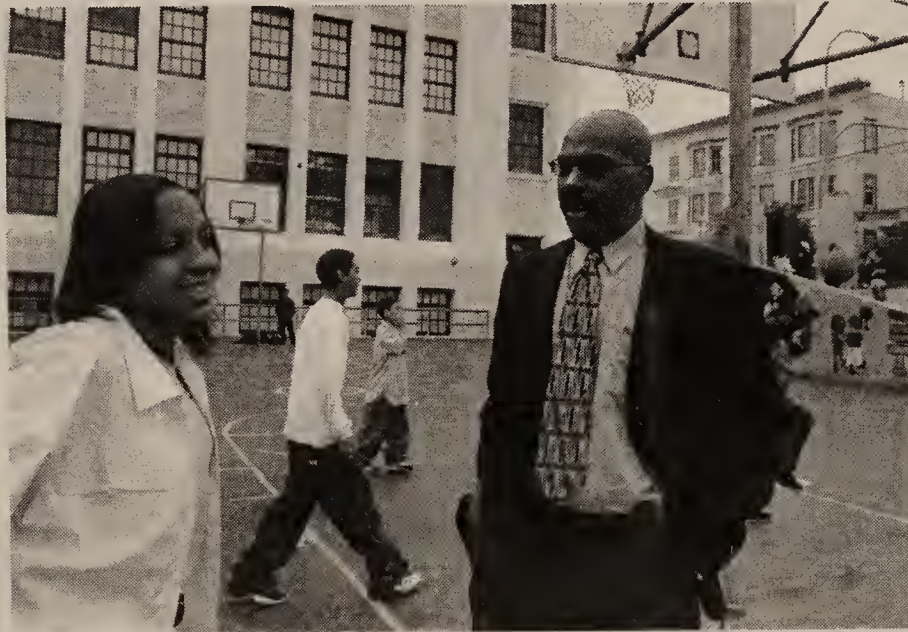
It isn't always easy to be 13 years old. And it's been especially hard to be 13—or 12 or 14—in Noe Valley lately.

For several months last year, a conflict between a Noe Valley merchant and students at James Lick Middle School held sway in this newspaper. Students, who'd been branded as shoplifters on 24th Street, spoke out about being punished as a group for the actions of a few. Teachers and parents wrote to defend the merits of public school and to expound on the joys and pitfalls of adolescence. While no one denied that a few students had made mistakes, they begged *Voice* readers not to dismiss James Lick students out of hand.

Now, in the aftermath of a much more disturbing incident at the school, James Lick finds itself once again reeling from media exposure and scrambling to pick up the pieces.

Police Escort Kids from Classroom

On Thursday, March 23, a San Francisco police officer arrested three eighth-grade James Lick Middle School students, two girls and a boy, in front of their classmates. The officer read them their Miranda rights and led them out of the building. A fourth student turned herself



Despite negative publicity stemming from a recent incident, James Lick Middle School can point to rising test scores, committed teachers, active parents, and creative, well-disciplined students. Here, Principal Michael Eddings chats with students on James Lick's playground. Photo by Pamela Gerard

in and was arrested later that day.

They were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy and mixing a harmful substance with a drink. According to police, on Friday, March 17, three of the students helped plan and one actually poured nail polish remover into a teacher's water bottle while the teacher and most of the other students were out of the room. The teacher, Matthew Podwoski, later took a drink from the bottle, realized it was dangerous, and spit it out before swallowing. He was treated at San Francisco General Hospital for burns inside his mouth.

Podwoski, who teaches language and social studies, returned to the classroom the following week. In the days after the arrest, the students were suspended from school and sent to the Community Assessment and Referral Center (for juve-

niles involved in nonviolent felonies). The San Francisco School District later expelled one student and transferred the others to three separate middle schools.

According to the police, the boy, who was enrolled in Podwoski's language arts class, had had a dispute weeks earlier with the teacher. His classmates said he then enlisted several girls in the same class to poison Podwoski. (It was one of the girls, however, who actually poured the polish remover into the water bottle.)

The *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Examiner*, and *Independent* all reported the arrest and details of the incident. Several local TV stations also broadcast the news. The *Chronicle* published the story on page one of its March 24 edition.

'Now They Hate Us Even More'



Neighborhood namesake Noe Venable grew up on Diamond Street. Now the multitasking singer, songwriter, and performer is moving out into the world. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

pop album released last year.

Venable packs her music with invention, adding delightful intros, interludes, codas, even mid-song stories. She clearly puts tremendous work into the minutiae of her songs. Yet there is real spontaneity in her vocal phrasing, genuine joy in sudden shifts of tone. Her voice soars angelically, dips mournfully, then growls gutturally with perfect control.

When you catch one of her gigs, turn around and look at the audience. You'll

see slack jaws. Young and old, tough and sensitive, everybody in the room is under Venable's spell. This is not the same bar we sat down in. Venable's voice has transformed the room:

Any fool will tell ya not to look at
Toby Mills

On a day you've got a twinkle in your
eye.

He got hands like chew toys from his

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Face to Face With Officer Bill Boniface

Wheeling Around His Upper Noe Beat

By Alison Pence

Except for the extra-wide leather belt with mace, police radio, and holstered gun, he might be your neighbor out for a bike ride. Meet Officer Bill Boniface, the "beat cop" for Upper Noe Valley.

We met for an interview at Day Street Park, he wearing wrap-around metallic blue glasses, shorts, a very large scrape on his leg from getting caught on the Muni tracks, and a friendly smile, and I wearing the expression and crumpled

Continued on Page 7

"I think adults in Noe Valley hate us even more now," laments 13-year-old Monica, one of four James Lick students who took part in a roundtable discussion a few weeks after the arrest. The students, some of whom were friends of the students involved, read the story clipped from the *Chronicle* and spoke openly about the incident, and the shock waves it sent through their school community.

(The *Voice* allowed the students to use first names for this story. Parents gave permission for their children to be quoted.)

Mino, 14, echoed Monica's fears: "Before, people didn't have too much to point to. Now this gives them an excuse to say, 'They're crazy.'"

Seventh-grader Elektra, 12, said she has gotten a lot of questions about her school from other kids. At first it made her mad, but now she feels proud. "I felt defensive enough to write a letter to the editor [at the *Chronicle*]. And now I do tell people where I go to school, so they can see we're good kids."

Monica ventured a new approach: What if she and her classmates linked arms and marched peacefully down 24th Street? "We need to show everyone that we're okay and proud of who we are."

Principal Calls It an Isolated Incident

So who are they? James Lick enrolls about 500 students in grades six through eight. Some middle schools in the city enroll upwards of 1,200 students, but James Lick is on a par with other middle schools in the area, such as Everett and Potrero Hill Middle School. About a quarter of the students at James Lick are African-American, almost half are Latino, and a little more than a tenth are white. (One source for this story insisted we publicize the fact that none of the kids involved in the poisoning were African-American.)

Principal Michael Eddings maintains that the vast majority of James Lick students are sharp, well-behaved kids who are working hard to achieve success, both academically and socially.

"Ninety-eight percent of our kids are

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The Versatile Noe Venable

Diamond Street Musician Is a Gem

By Joe Quirk

Is there magic in a name? Maybe so. Noe Venable was named for the neighborhood her parents loved. Born and raised on Diamond Street, this multifaceted singer and songwriter is one of the undiscovered treasures of San Francisco.

Only 23, Noe Venable is already a prolific artist. She routinely performs three hours of original music. Her studio album, *No Curses Here*, released two years ago, is filled with lovely songs she hardly ever plays anymore.

Venable performs solo—accompanying herself on guitar—or with her acoustic group (the Noe Venable Trio), or with her electric quintet, the Ruiners ("my louder band"). Sometimes it's folk, sometimes jazz or rock. At each gig, she breaks out two or three "virgin" songs, which she proclaims need to be "deflowered."

But these songs are in no sense tossed off. Each composition sparkles with fresh ideas. In fact, I'd put any 15 randomly chosen Noe Venable songs up against any



Thank You, Mom. For us kids, May 14 is this year's day to celebrate Mother's Day. For moms, however, every day is mother's day...a day for tutoring, patience, doctor's appointments, listening, housework, scolding, special snacks, paying the bills, and wisdom earned the hard way. Here, Christina Stonehouse takes a breather on the bench outside Starbucks with (l. to r.) son Daniel Timpane, 10, daughter Megan Timpane, 8, and friend Jenny Rafikova, 9.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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Summer classes meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Students can complete registration at the Castro/Valencia campus during the first two weeks of classes. For a complete listing of courses and other information on CCSF, visit our website: <http://www.ccsf.org>

LETTERS 33¢

Thanks, Real Food, for Canning Kozmo

Editor:

On behalf of our six employees at Video Wave, we would like to publicly thank Dave Kloski, the manager at Real Food Company, for removing the drop-off box for Kozmo.com from the 24th Street store. We especially want to thank the employees at Real Food who were so vocal about their dislike of the box and its effect on neighborhood business.

It's really painful and dehumanizing when local businesses support the potential demise of their neighbors. Has anyone stopped to think that for these new companies, Noe Valley is nothing more than a site on a map projected to draw certain revenues? These companies will take the life force from the community and give nothing back. They will never know or care to know your name, your children's names, nor whether you exist or not, except in terms of market demographics. Their owners will not be shopping in our local stores nor adding to the overall ambiance of the community.

These companies want more than just to be prosperous. Corporate giants like Blockbuster Video seek to wipe out smaller businesses. Sadly, they are succeeding in many locations. Starbucks has signed a multimillion-dollar deal with Kozmo, and so has Amazon.com.

These megastores also secure "sweet-heart deals" from the movie studios to obtain videos at a rate denied the independents, making it impossible for the smaller shops to compete. They also dangle a carrot in front of the public through big-bucks advertising, hoping you will jump and bring your dollars with you. This is all operating on the assumption that the consumer will not bother to calculate that they can order their DVDs at a cheaper price at Video Wave or that they can get their books cheaper at a local bookstore than at Amazon. It's like someone who goes to the circus but doesn't want to know how the elephants are really being treated.

We are fortunate that our customers are intelligent and have enough vision to realize that their dollar, more than ever, carries a political as well as a philosophical voice. We are shaping our own future, our community's future, and our children's future now.

And to reiterate what was so eloquently expressed by Mark Ezarik of Cover to Cover in his response to an April letter to the editor, it's not that small businesses are somehow inferior or lagging behind or frightened of competition, it's that we are making conscious choices about how to run our businesses and we are not willing to sacrifice humanity in the name of "progress." If anything, this cold, money-grabbing trend is a regression and an insult to the dignity of life and human relationships.

It may be videos and books today, but whose future will be hanging in the balance tomorrow?

Gardenia and Alexander Gardener
Owners, Video Wave
Castro Street

More Art for Art's Sake

Editor:

In your very nice tribute to Art Schembri (April 2000), you said he was in his late 70s when he passed away in February. In fact, he was 83.

It should also be noted that he won a Bronze Star as a Marine in the South Pacific during World War II.

Yves Barbero
Dolores Street

Where's the Organic Beef?

Editor:

In your March 2000 story about dot-com deliveries, you wrote:

"Tom Maravilla of MikeyTom Market on Church Street ... admits frustration when he sees the Webvan truck pull up to a neighbor's house half a block from his store. 'I mean, they can just call me and tell me what they need, and I'll bring it right over!' he laughs."

This comment omits one crucial point and the reason that my family uses Webvan: there is nowhere in Noe Valley to buy good, organic meat.

Yes, I regularly walk up to Real Food for the produce. But red meat, poultry, fish? Whole Foods is a long way across the city for us Noeans. Show me a Noe supplier of hormone-free beef and antibiotic-free chicken, and Webvan will lose a faithful customer tomorrow.

The Bracamonte family

Neighborhood Monster Sightings

Editor:

I just read Jeannene Przblyski's article, titled "'Monster' Homes Creeping Into Noe," in the April issue of the *Voice*. As a resident of Noe Valley since 1993, I have observed the recent influx of new residential development and applaud Ms. Przblyski's accurate reporting of this discouraging reality.

My own failed attempt to gain information from the city's Planning Department regarding a 'monster' in my own neighborhood leads me to believe that the city's building frenzy has taken precedence over solid legislation to facilitate

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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
1021 Sanchez Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

The Noe Valley Voice is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Friday of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$20 per year (\$10 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

Most stories and columns are also published on our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Distribution: Call Misha at 415-752-1726

Display Advertising:
Call Steve at 415-239-1114
Class Ads: See Page 43
Display Advertising Deadline for the
June 2000 Issue: May 19
Editorial and Class Ad Deadline: May 15

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
Contents © 2000 The Noe Valley Voice

Students and Staff Cope with Latest Smudge on School's Reputation

Continued from Page 1

doing what's right 99 percent of the time," says Eddings. "This situation was an isolated incident."

Eddings finds it frustrating that the *Chronicle* in its front-page story characterized the school as "troubled by lagging test scores and behavior problems." In fact, Eddings says, James Lick students have improved their reading and math scores steadily over the past four years, and behavior problems are not schoolwide.

"This is a great school," agrees Adonis Torres, who taught for 20 years at Mission High before coming to Lick and taking on the job of head counselor. "We have a lot of things in place to help our kids," says Torres, citing homework clubs, gang-risk intervention activities, after-school classes in Capoeira and merengue, and an anonymous hotline to report student problems.

After the news broke, Eddings enlisted the aid of the school district's Health Services Department, asking the staff to provide medical information and counseling to James Lick's entire student body. He also sent a note home to parents, telling them about the arrest and explaining that the incident was under investigation.

But most of the parents had already gotten the word.

Teri Cahill lives in Noe Valley and has been an active James Lick parent for six years. Her 14-year-old daughter Sadie is the second of her children to attend the school. "When I heard what happened, I just had a sinking feeling," Cahill said.

"When I heard it was on the front page of the newspaper, I said, 'My God, what kind of a school everyone must think this is!'" Really, said Cahill, what everyone should see is that mistakes are made, and that all of the students stand to learn a lesson from this experience.

Kids Point to Scene in *American Pie*

So how does something like a poisoning happen here?

Cahill's daughter Sadie, an eighth-grader, suggests that maybe the students "thought it was just a joke."

support, not only from his fellow teachers at James Lick but from the entire school district. (Matthew Podwoski declined to be interviewed for this article.)



A chain-link fence notwithstanding, James Lick Middle School is part of Noe Valley. The school's students need—and want—adult tutors, mentors, and advisers, as well as donations of everything from basketballs to art supplies. Will Noe Valley respond? Photo by Pamela Gerard

Or perhaps they were influenced by a scene in the movie *American Pie*, where a student puts a prescription laxative in another student's "mochaccino" drink. The movie plot was a predictable exercise in bathroom humor. But what happened to Podwoski was potentially deadly.

"They must have thought no one would be hurt," said Elektra.

The students at the roundtable discussion all claimed that the students who were arrested had first "copycatted" the laxative scene in *American Pie*. But luckily, Podwoski had not drunk from the coffee laced with laxative.

That was when the plan escalated to putting nail polish remover in the teacher's water bottle.

"Those students did not understand it was not just a prank," said Torres. "They had a lack of understanding of substances." Did he think the students would have read the warnings on the polish remover label and known it was harmful if swallowed? "I think kids this age are injured to a printed warning. It just doesn't make an impression."

Immediately following the arrests, the staff was instructed to use class time to talk about what happened and how the students felt about it.

The students said they were left with a very vivid impression — of poisonous substances, of how much power they have to hurt another person, and how society deals with such crimes.

Teacher Recovering from Ordeal

Not to diminish the suffering of the teacher, but Assistant Principal Sue Scheiter says that Podwoski appears to be handling the situation well. She notes that he has received a strong outpouring of

Contrary to the impression that may have been left by the four students' actions, Podwoski "is wonderful—a pleasure to observe in the classroom and is well liked by the students," Scheiter says.

Frances, an eighth-grader in Podwoski's morning social studies class, agrees. "I was shocked [to hear about the poisoning try]. He's a good teacher, and he's always helped me out. I mean, no one really 'hates him' hates him."

Scheiter says that the rest of the teachers also seem to be weathering the episode well, due to their strong commitment to the students. She is hopeful the incident will not create any lasting fears about safety in the classroom.

Parents Talk 'Zero Tolerance'

The parents may take a while longer to get over it.

Pat Solis, a parent of an eighth-grader, says she was stunned to learn that her son's classmates failed to inform another adult about a plan to poison a teacher. "Personally," Solis remarks, "I think between now and the end of the year it should be 'zero tolerance' for any kind of prank behavior."

Dianne Platner, whose fifth-grader may attend James Lick next year, also supports a harder line. "There is a case for using zero tolerance," she says. "It's unfortunate a child has to get to this point, but now that it's happened, we have to do something about it."

Teri Cahill, who works as a nurse at San Francisco General Hospital, also wants to make sure the students who were transferred or expelled get long-term counseling and support. "I've seen the result of not getting help. It can be very difficult to come back up in life."

Students Learn Right from Wrong

Meanwhile, the students continue to find their moral bearings.

"At first I thought the adults went overboard," says Mino. "But now I agree [with the public arrest and expulsion]. It totally taught everybody about it being so wrong."

Frances also approves of the school district's use of such harsh discipline. "They did the right thing."

Sadie reports that loose talk about arguments or revenge now has a chilling effect on her and her friends' conversation. "We could get in trouble for just knowing about it and not saying anything!"

It's Time to Move On

Laurel Turner, president of the school's PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association), was also shocked and saddened by the way the four students behaved in Mr. Podwoski's class. "As parents, it's very important to talk to our kids about it," she believes.

But in the weeks following the arrest, Turner threw herself into the annual talent show. She was a frequent fixture in the school hallways and auditorium, chatting with teachers and administrators and good-naturedly scooting kids to class after lunch, calling each one by name. She shows a deep knowledge of the students' lives and the issues at the school.

The talent show she helped produce involved 50 students and six staff members. This year, with so many kids participating and the addition of some stunning scenery made by the art classes, Turner feels it was one of the school's best.

Turner reflects on the last two months at James Lick, and sighs heavily. Like everyone else, she is hopeful the poisoning was only an aberration—a blip on the radar screen.

"Of course, everybody will remember this terrible thing that happened. It has made us ask our kids important questions. But it's time we moved on." □

To help students move on (and up), Turner invites Noe Valley to get involved at James Lick. Turner lists several ways you can make a difference: Some students need tutoring in reading and math. The gardening club is looking for an adult leader. And the students in the after-school program occasionally need nutritious snacks (the school district can only provide lunch leftovers). Plus, the school could use donations of art supplies, board games, basketballs, even ping-pong balls. If you can help, call the school at 695-5675 and leave a message for Laurel Turner. A PTSA member will contact you.



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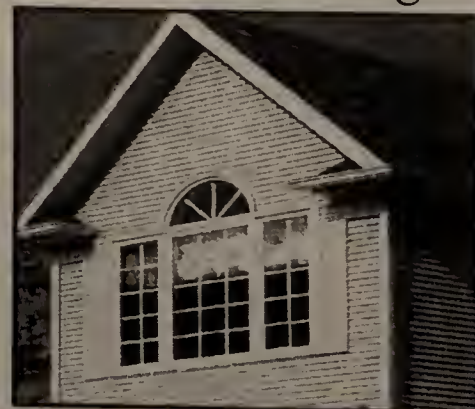
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LETTERS 33¢

Continued from Page 4

more reasonable residential development.

The Planning Department is in dire need of reform; the city workers employed by this department are in need of education surrounding the department's policies so that they may better serve the public.

Gina Gillombardo
Via email

Support for Moratorium

Editor:

I think Jeannene Przyblyski brought up a very good point about creating some sort of moratorium on these monster houses in Noe Valley. The exact same thing happened to us on Vicksburg Street, and we have been fighting it for two years. We have presented our case to both the Planning Commission (Design Review) and the Board of Permit Appeals. We won on both occasions, but the developer is still going ahead with a smaller version of his grand scheme.

We need legislation to make sure these monsters conform to the existing neighborhood scale and to give the neighborhood some voice in these matters. In other words, enforce Proposition M.

Marvin Hollis
Via email

It's All There in Prop. M

Editor:

No more monster homes! We need to be sure that the Planning Department is made aware of Prop. M's restrictions on buildings that do not comply with community standards. The guidelines are set out in this long-fought-for planning tool.

Denise D'Anne
Via email

posals were labeled "uncaring" or worse. Smear tactics are an easy, undemocratic way to quiet the voice of reason and allow discrimination to flourish.

Rachel Callaghan
Via email

What Would Mother Teresa Do?

Editor:

The Noe Valley homeless shelter is a good, kind act and should be supported and celebrated, not condemned to petty legal actions.

Perhaps my grandfather was wrong when he said help your neighbors. I don't think he meant help your neighbors keep out other neighbors—which is the consequence of the recent legal threats toward the homeless shelter on Church Street.

I believe that it is every community's responsibility to support our neighbors—even when they pose a less desirable aesthetic to our eyes or ears.

In short, young homeless people need our (Noe Valley community) help, and government—at any level—cannot solve the problem alone. We must take the lead and sacrifice our pathetic ideals of a utopian community, which ignore real problems of homelessness and misfortune. The Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) mentality is our enemy. We as individual members of the Noe Valley community must open the "doors" of our neighborhood to the less fortunate. Instead, our recent actions, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) legal threats against the homeless shelter planned by a Noe Valley "association," reveal our true nature to conspire and plan methods of exclusivity. Personally, I want no association with such obvious acts of intolerance. For relevant examples, please see history lesson 1: German Aryan society, 1930s to 1940s, and history lesson 2: American racism.

One final thought. Imagine you are having iced tea at Martha's coffee shop on Church Street with Mother Teresa (yes, I know she has passed on). You mention that there is a homeless shelter across the street that helps young people. You also say that you would like her opinion on whether to keep the shelter open, and that as far as you can ascertain, the main problem is that the city allowed the shelter to open before it had installed a ramp for the disabled. To be fair, you tell Mother Teresa that the ramp construction could now cause inconveniences for the businesses nearby.

I can't imagine that Mother Teresa would say, "Close it down."

The ultimate irony is this: The ADA codes are there to give access to those in our community who are less fortunate. And yet these codes are being used to complete the opposite mission. This smacks of hypocrisy.

I would hope that each of us is willing to help our neighbors in need—even when it is inconvenient.

Scott Palmer
Via email

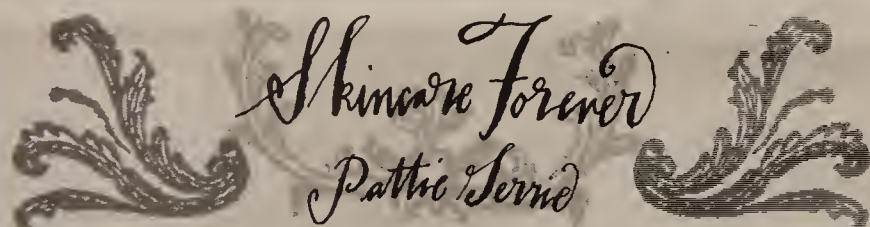
Long Wait for Angel Island Cabins

Editor:

Your article on Angel Island ["Your Own Private Island," Are We There Yet? April 2000 *Voice*] was all well and good, but you need to tell people they will have to book seven or more months in advance to camp on Angel Island on the weekend. It's disappointing to spend a few hours trying to arrange a trip and to come up with nothing until the end of the year.

Joan Héringer
Via email

Our apologies for the omission, Joan. And thanks for alerting us to the delay.—Ed.



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Ingleside Station's Bill Boniface rides the Upper Noe bike beat. His job's easier, Boniface notes, when neighbors are forthcoming with information about what's going on in the 'hood. Photo by Beverly Sharp

The Friendly Face Of Officer Boniface

Continued from Page 1

clothes of a woman who had just wrestled two 2-year-olds to the ground.

Born in Missouri and raised in Washington State, Officer Boniface is married and lives in Concord. He commutes on BART to Balboa Park, then walks to the Ingleside Police Station off San Jose Avenue. He has been on the San Francisco police force for 29 years. It was his first job out of the Police Academy. The BART stations were his first detail. Over the years, he has worked at Northern Police Station (in the Fillmore) and for the Traffic Accident Investigation Bureau.

Five years ago, Officer Boniface came to Ingleside and started in "the school car." This is the patrol that goes to all of the schools and responds to school incidents. He also supervised the Orange Belts, the eighth-grade school crossing guards. He has been riding his bike and walking the beat in Upper Noe for about a year.

"I put in 12 to 25 miles a day working from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday," he says. His turf extends from Bosworth to Diamond and from 30th Street to Cesar Chavez.

"Most of my route is along the business corridors [like outer Church Street], because that's where I'm needed. I try not to insulate myself from businesses by just riding by. I often get off my bike so that the shop owners can talk with me."

He also covers a section of Mission Street and may spend close to half his time there because it "generates more reports."

Officer Boniface, 55, takes the title of Peace Officer seriously. "I love being outside in the fresh air and talking to people. I feel it's my job to get to know people in the community so that I can resolve conflicts more effectively."

The downside, he goes on to say, is that people don't want to get involved, they are suspicious or afraid of the police, and some even commit crimes.

What are the worst crimes in his part of Noe Valley?

"The strong-arm robbery where the criminal preys on the weak," Boniface says. "It's awful when an old lady falls and breaks her hip during a purse snatching."

Traffic is also an area where residents need to exercise caution. "Red light runners and stop sign gunners endanger us all, especially pets and children. So be aware and travel in pairs."

Boniface, like other officers, struggles with the issue of homelessness. Balancing the rights of panhandlers with those of residents and merchants can be a high-wire act. Store owners often call him for assistance in rousing sleepers from their stoops. Usually there are no problems, he says, but sometimes — particularly in cases of intoxication or urinating in public — he has to make an arrest.

Another tough assignment in this neighborhood is enforcing the leash law. "If I had a clear message from the community, it would make my job easier," he says, referring to the current tug-of-war over dogs on the grass at Day Street Park.

When it comes to graffiti and vandalism, Boniface is truly dedicated. "If someone could tell me where and when, I would camp out all night to make an arrest."

Asked if he has any special requests for Noe Valleyans, he says yes, please report all crimes, and keep an eye out for your neighbors. "Ninety percent of my good arrests are because the public gave me information. They make me look good."

Witnesses and victims ought not to be afraid for their safety, he says. "Bad guys don't retaliate."

Ruggedly handsome and deeply tanned, Officer Boniface must have a beauty secret. So I inquired, "What kind of sunscreen do you wear?" "None," he replied. "I'm sorry," I said, "but given your occupation and considering your age, I'm going to have to write you a ticket." □

If you'd like to speak with Officer Bill Boniface about a community problem, call Ingleside Police Station at 553-1603.



REAL ESTATE

The Highest Price Isn't always the strongest offer

By Shari Malone, Zephyr Real Estate

Keep in mind that it is NOT always the highest priced offer that is the strongest offer...43% of escrows in San Francisco County are cancelled. Sellers need to be aware of the pitfalls to a successful close of escrow. Sellers should also be alert to opportunities the buyers may have allowed themselves to renegotiate the price or terms.

In addition to price, the following are just some of the key elements to evaluate in competing offers.

(1) Source of funds: even though a buyer may be preapproved, if his loan funds are coming from a poorly diversified stock portfolio -- he could lose his down payment prior to escrow.

(2) Length of time the buyer has to cancel or renegotiate the terms is critical. It is not wise to accept an offer without the buyer having completed his own inspections -- but the buyer could get his inspections completed prior to making the offer, therefore

removing the possibility that they could cancel or try to renegotiate the price based on inspections.

(3) If the purchase offer is subject to the property qualifying for a loan, and the lender's appraisal of the property is lower than the contract price, the buyer may cancel or attempt to renegotiate the price.

(4) If the agent representing the buyer has a reputation for meeting deadlines, finding creative win-win solutions to problems and closing transactions, the chances that the escrow will close are strengthened.

(5) If there is a provision allowing you to stay in your home after close of escrow, the cost of any rent back provision will impact the net proceeds from the sale. If the cost of renting your home after close of escrow is the new buyer's PITI (principal, interest, taxes & insurance) you might desire a limit on the amount of their PITI (in case the buyer changes the terms on their loan).

(6) A high earnest money deposit combined with few contract conditions, strengthens a purchase offer.

(7) A buyer needs to be emotionally qualified in addition to financially qualified. A buyer who is enthusiastic and committed to your home is less likely to try to renegotiate any of the terms, and is more likely to close escrow.

Shari Malone has represented buyers and sellers of real estate for over 25 years. She is in the top 1/2 of 1% of Realtors, nationwide. If you have questions, she invites your call or email. 415-695-0552 x135 or ShariMalone@Zephyr-re.com

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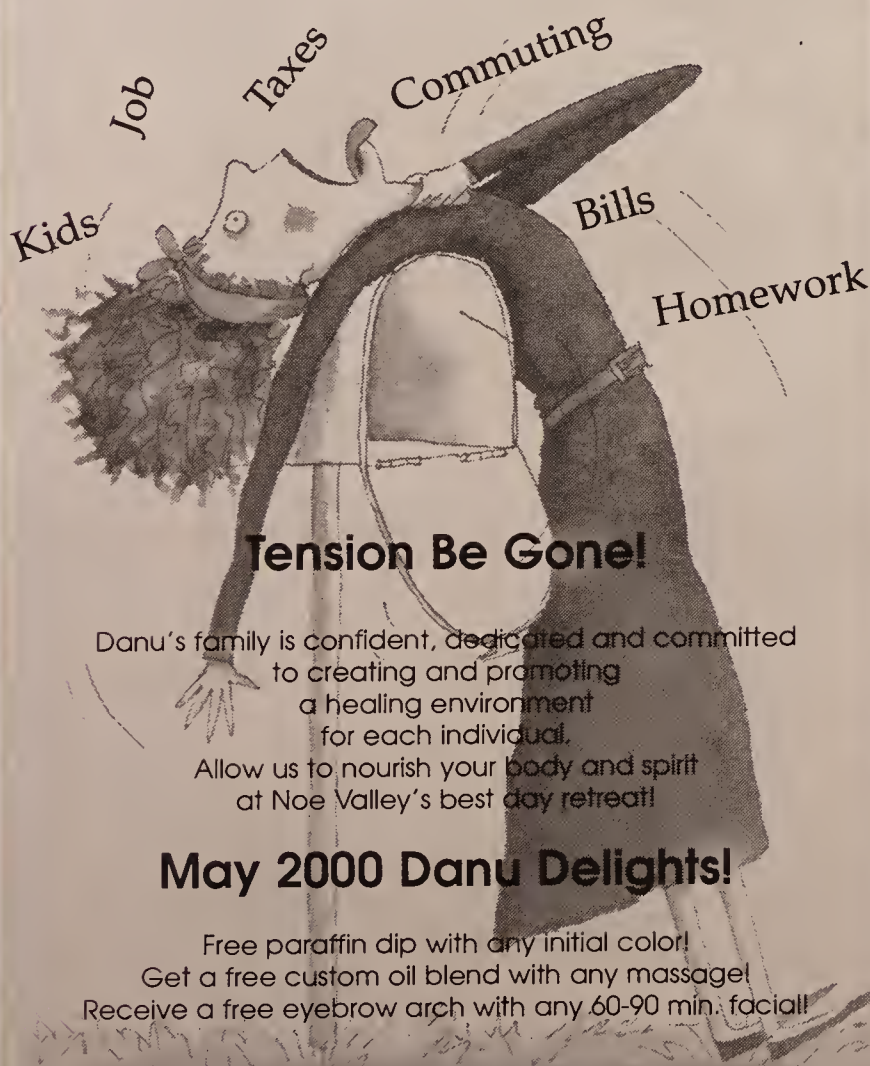
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Under the Spell of Noe Venable

Continued from Page 1

work on the machines,
And he waters them like roses when
he cries.

And check out the interplay of meanings and rhythms here:

overripe underage spin me a whirl
you with your face like a lemon in
pain

moon is a coin to be spent on a girl
come to inebriate out of the rain

days i have violined tragic and crass
weepingly bowing the people i'd meet
but now all the music is here in my
glass

three sips from the bottom one drink
to the street

blackberry patch, stripteasing your
leaves...

Last January, Venable recorded two dozen songs live at Mo's Melody Mansion, the basement playland of "New Folk" ringleader Tom Meshishenek, who played guitar on Venable's last album. Venable was accompanied by her trio: classically trained violinist Alan Lin, who plays a wide array of genres, and acoustic bass player Todd Sickafoose, a jazz composer in his own right. (Venable painted the cover for Sickafoose's new powerhouse CD, *Dogs Outside*.)

Lin and Sickafoose are accomplished session men from opposite sides of Western music. Both focus on Venable's guitar and voice with a concentration bordering on reverence. It is Venable who plays to the crowd.

Venable's stage-sense comes from her training as an actress under George Coates' tutelage. At 16, she played Puck in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a play she would later direct. Her narrative sense comes from her experience as a playwright. At the moment, she makes her living writing children's versions of classic books. (She just finished *Little Women* and *Black Beauty*. "I try to cut them to smithereens and yet still preserve their souls," she says.) But her songwriting is all precise puppetmaking, another of the many arts in which Venable excels.

Venable doesn't take the stage, she just sort of wanders on, then looks at the audience with an affectionate comradeship. (Once she was wearing mismatched stockings.)

Have you ever stared at a performer? Get ready to be stared at right back. Never have I seen a performer maintain such a disarming eye contact with her audience.

She strums her guitar, she opens her mouth, and every conversation in the room stops dead. I have yet to see Noe Venable finish an opening song without hearing some newcomer in the audience murmur, "Wow."

A kid I know got frozen making
angels in the snow.

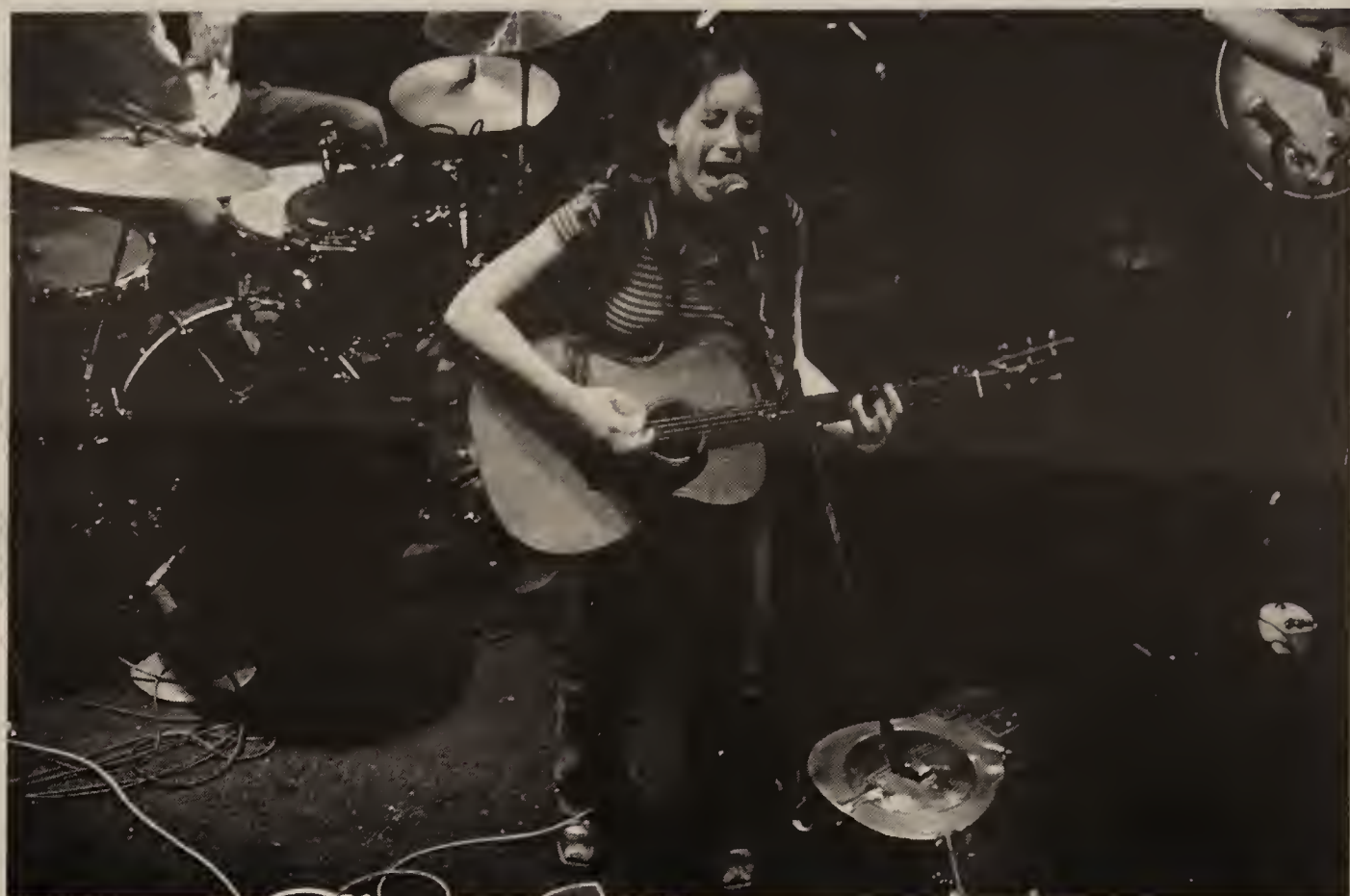
They pulled her out and buried her as
if she died in prayer.

The funeral was fitting; there was
nobody there.

Now if teachers burned your walking
shoes, then barefoot you must go.

Venable spent time as a traveling minstrel in Europe, where she consumed the rich song traditions. She says the music is so palpable that "even the dogs know." But for all her musicality, Venable's core sensibility is that of a folk storyteller. In fact, she can't get through a set without putting down her guitar and announcing with glee, "I wanna tell a story!"

She begins to speak, the musicians start to set the mood, and Venable proceeds to dump her chest of gems. She



Noe Venable's various incarnations (singing solo, or fronting an acoustic or electric band) will visit various local venues in the next few weeks, including the Noe Valley Music Series, Cafe du Nord, and Sweetwater.
Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

prowls the stage, showering the crowd with weird turns of phrase and sudden comic moments of acrobatic poetry. Her face twists through such Harlequin extremes of expression, she seems like a psychotic elf come to warn us mortals of some spiritual apocalypse. Puck, her old role, is alive!

I'll be mulling over which razor to buy! To raze myself slick as an eel in the fountain of youth! Soft as a new lamb with ears perked up white and wide! My dawns will dress in their winter clothes, their hurricanes and rain, when you press up against the frosty pain, crowned, this time, with waving insects, for we two shall suck on sweet memories of living days!

For all her cocksure display, Venable does not reveal her whole self in her crystalline songs. You come away feeling that you know her cavernous imagination, but not that you know her. I'm not important, her music seems to say. *This* is.

While tuning her guitar, she says, "This is called 'Tuning.'" Then adds, "It's a cover."

Her between-song banter gets the crowd

laughing. She says the waving arms in the front row of a packed house look like "kelp," warns about what happens when "good cars happen to bad people," then confounds her audience with a deadpan statement so enigmatic it sounds like Zen. Then she springs a song on her musicians they've never heard before, and after some entertaining panic they rise to the challenge with a synergy that seems telepathic.

Noe Venable was the type of kid who, suicidally, went to Everett Middle School dressed as a seahorse for Halloween, so she knows what it's like to get taunted for being different. But it takes determination to turn *weirdo* into *special*.

Now, triumphant in her uniqueness, Venable seems proud of her wry wit and impish smile, or as she sings it, her "moon of pearls." Her first album may be called *No Curses Here*, but between poems about dragonflies and a lobster's "black caviar eyes," Venable curses like a sailor.

However, she's not as tough as she pretends she is. Venable's smartassery is charming precisely because *she* knows

that *we* know it is also "a cover." When she sings, her face betrays her. It overflows with wonder. In Venable's shining eyes, you can still see the kid who might show up dressed as a seahorse.

Her live recording, *Down Easy*, will be out this month. And on May 20, Venable will perform a CD-release concert with her trio at the Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry. Go. You'll be waving your arms like kelp. □

Joe Quirk is the author of *The Ultimate Rush* (St. Martin's Press, 1998), a best-selling cyberthriller about a roller-blading messenger in San Francisco.



Where to See Noe

Singer Noe Venable is fresh from the Best of San Francisco Acoustic Tour, playing in April and May in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and five other cities on the East Coast. To check her current schedule, visit her web site at www.zot.net. Meanwhile, here are three upcoming Venable gigs in and around San Francisco:

Saturday, May 20, 8:15 p.m.

The Noe Venable Trio (Noe Venable, vocals, guitar; Todd Sickafoose, acoustic bass; Alan Lin, violin)
Noe Valley Music Series, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd; 415-454-5238. Tickets, \$12 advance/\$14 at the door, available at Streetlight Records, 3979 24th Street

Sunday, June 4, 8 p.m.

Noe Venable and the Ruiners (electric quintet)
Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market Street at Sanchez; 415-861-5016

Sunday, June 11 (call for time)

Noe Venable and the Ruiners
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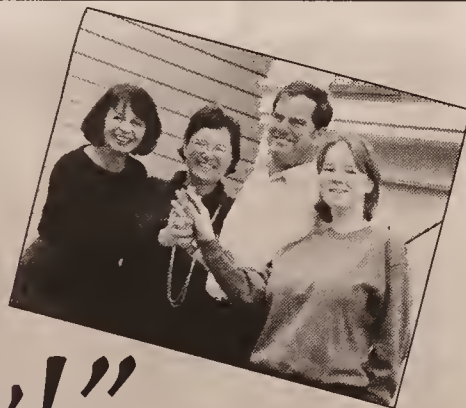
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POLICE BEAT

Look for the Man with The Missing Shoe

By Officer Lois Perillo

The good news is that my part of Noe Valley reported no robberies during the month of March and none the first week of April. However, there were two robberies in the second week of April.

A 25-year-old man was robbed at gun-point by two men in their 20s as he walked on 24th Street near Guerrero on Saturday, April 8, at 12:40 a.m. The walker was approached from behind by the robbers, who demanded money and threatened to harm him if he did not comply. When he removed his wallet and handed over his money, one robber grabbed for the wallet, now empty of cash. The man reflexively pulled the wallet away, at which point the robber produced a handgun and struck him on the head.

The two suspects then ran to a white four-door car, and jumped in and fled north on Guerrero. The man who'd been mugged walked to 24th and Church, where he reported the robbery to police.

In the second robbery, a 51-year-old woman sustained a scrape to her forehead when she struggled with a 20-year-old man who had snatched her purse on Sunday, April 9, at about 2 p.m.

The woman was walking east on 22nd Street toward Castro when she felt a tug on her shoulder bag and turned to see a man yanking on the bag. In the ensuing struggle, both the man and the woman fell to the ground, and her forehead was scraped. Still, she managed to wrest a sneaker from the man's foot as he took off with her purse and ran to a waiting tan car, which fled north on Noe Street.

Although the suspects in these two incidents were not caught, witnesses provided the vehicles' license plate numbers to police (good work, deputies). The Robbery Detail is now investigating both cases.

Belligerent Bingo Player

In a rather unusual incident, an 89-year-old woman was assaulted by a 59-year-old man on Saturday, March 11, at 10 a.m., while they were playing bingo at St. Philip's Church Hall at Diamond and Elizabeth streets. The man apparently became angry with the woman when she asked him not to sit near her. He used an object, possibly a soda can, to strike the woman in the eye, causing her eyelid to swell. The woman was seen by city paramedics, who came to the hall. Officer Ben Manning responded as well and gave the man a citation to appear in court.

Headbutting SUV Owner

On Wednesday, March 29, at 10 p.m., a 30-year-old man reported being assaulted by a man in his late 20s who became enraged that his vehicle was vandalized on the 3900 block of 22nd Street.

According to the police report, the younger man, owner of a Cadillac SUV, initially came to the older man's home to ask him about a note that had been left on his windshield. The note stated that the SUV would be towed if its owner continued to park illegally. When the older man acknowledged he knew about the note, the younger man pulled him down his front steps and accused him of vandalizing his Cadillac by scratching "Tow Me" into the vehicle's paint.

Though the older man denied any involvement, the younger man used the top

of his head to headbutt him in the nose, which caused the back of his head to strike the building wall. The younger man then fled in his vehicle. The injured man was seen by paramedics, who responded to the 911 call.

Church Street Hit-and-Run

On Sunday, March 5, at 11:25 p.m., a 40-year-old woman was arrested for felony drunk driving and hit-and-run after she apparently ran a stop sign at 23rd and Castro streets, causing a southbound Castro vehicle to strike her car. After the collision, she immediately attempted to drive away, but hit another vehicle and a fire hydrant. According to witnesses, the woman continued to try to flee, but was thwarted when her car stalled.

Officers Nancy Guillery and Joseph Barretta were called to the scene and detained the suspect, pending a field sobriety test, which she failed to complete. In the police report, the suspect described herself as "bombed." Because one person sustained a cut in the accident and others noted physical pain, the woman was taken to San Francisco General Hospital, where a legally mandated blood sample was drawn and later analyzed to find the blood alcohol content. In the meantime, her vehicle was towed and an inspector bureau's hold placed on it.

The woman was booked on two felonies of driving under the influence and hit-and-run with an injury accident, and she remained in county jail until the next day, when she made bail of \$10,000. The DA reduced the charges to misdemeanors, and her next court date was set for May 3.

Batterer Released Too Soon?

In the only reported case of domestic violence within Noe Valley in March, a 47-year-old man and resident of the 4100 block of 23rd Street allegedly assaulted his 41-year-old wife on Friday, March 31, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. He was arrested by Officer Dorian McConico and booked on a felony battery charge. The suspect was held at county jail over the weekend, then released on Monday after the DA declined to rebook the charges.

The same man was listed as a suspect in a domestic violence incident reported by Officer Lorraine Lombardo on Monday, April 3—the same day he was released from jail.

According to Officer Lombardo, the woman in this case began expressing suicidal thoughts, so she accompanied her to St. Luke's Hospital for psychiatric evaluation and treatment.

Meanwhile, criminal charges have been dropped against a 45-year-old woman who was arrested for battery in February after she allegedly assaulted a woman who gave her temporary shelter in her Church Street apartment. (See last month's *Police Beat*.) The DA dismissed the case, saying the charge was unsustainable.

Nine Homes Burglarized

There were nine reported burglaries in Noe Valley during the month of March. Six were of apartments, while three were of houses.

As reported last month, parolee David Walker, 32, was arrested while inside a home on the 1200 block of Dolores Street. Since the owner of the house was living at an elder-care facility and not at home at the time, the DA's office chose not to file burglary charges and instead sent Walker back to San Quentin on a parole violation.

Tires Slashed on Sanchez

Cars haven't fared well either this spring. There were eight stolen cars and 11 auto break-ins and thefts of property (called "boosts") recorded in Noe Valley during March. In addition, residents reported 10 cases of vehicle vandalism, damage to their cars' exterior.

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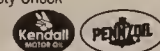
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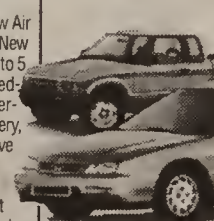
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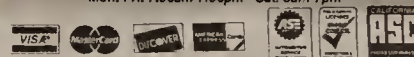
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Five of the vandalism cases were reported to officers Lorraine Lombardo and Ben Manning on Saturday, March 25, and were listed as tire slashings on the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Sanchez Street.

However, there were a few bright spots. A 34-year-old man was nabbed for boosting cars on the 3300 block of 22nd Street at around 4 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8. Two and a half weeks later, on Saturday, March 25, a 17-year-old male was arrested and charged with auto burglary at San Jose and Alvarado streets. One vandalism incident—at 24th and Diamond streets on Monday, March 20, at about 4 p.m.—ended in the arrest of a 13-year-old boy.

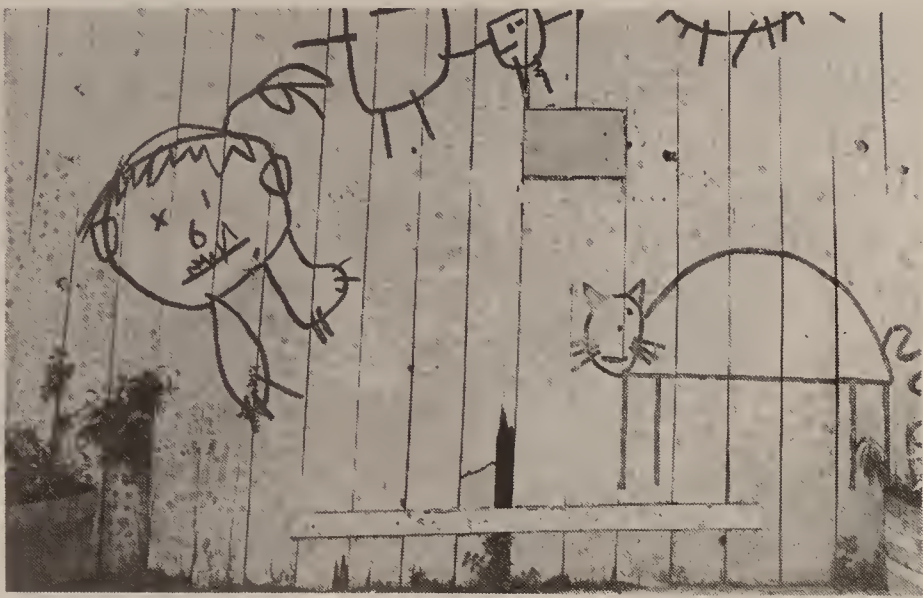
Also, three of the eight stolen cars were recovered by the end of the month.

Check Your Windows

As the warm weather approaches, please don't leave your windows unsecured! If you must have them open, use those little metal gadgets that keep them from opening all the way. And remember to close and lock all windows and doors when you leave the house.

Let's continue to watch out for one another. I'll see you on patrol. □

San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo covers her Noe Valley beat—from Valencia to Grand View and 21st to Cesar Chavez—on foot and on bicycle. If you would like to discuss a crime or safety problem, call her at 558-5404, the community policing line at Mission Station.



Though it's patched and braced, this fence on Church Street sports some fine kid art. The view can be improved only with the addition of the kids themselves and the staff of Wind in the Willows Preschool.

Photos by Pamela Gerard



VALLEY VIEWS

Be Part of the Solution Let's Work Together for Excellent Public Schools

By Sandra Halladey

Last month, both the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner* had front-page stories on the poisoning incident at James Lick Middle School. (See page 1 of this month's Voice.) The impression the reader got was of failing schools with failing children.

Over the past two years, I have been closely following the coverage of San Francisco public schools. The *Examiner* had a few positive stories on our public schools, but I was hard pressed to find a positive story in the *Chronicle* (although to the newspaper's credit, they did run a few op-ed pieces).

Wonderful things *do* happen in San Francisco public schools—but we rarely hear about them in the mainstream media.

Why is balanced media coverage important? If you only read sensational articles on our schools or school district, your image of our schools becomes skewed. Families in the schools become demoralized. (Alvarado parents were angry when the school was recently branded as "struggling" by a well-known *Chronicle* columnist. He obviously did not do his homework, and he certainly never visited the school nor spoke to parents. If he had, he would have discovered that out of more than 70 elementary schools in reading, Alvarado has moved from a ranking of 42nd five years ago to 11th this year.)

Has the mainstream press even touched upon the amazing transformation of numerous non-alternative public schools in the city? Last year, Fairmount School in upper Noe Valley had a waiting list for the first time ever. Alvarado won a prestigious award for its language-immersion program, one of only four awarded in California.

But families of preschool children often overlook an excellent public school in favor of a parochial or private school, simply because of the public schools' negative portrayal in the media. They think their children won't be safe or that they will have to spend lots of time at the school improving it. This view is neither accurate nor fair.

Recently, a neighborhood mom came up to me at Douglass Park and said, "I hear you are spending a lot of time at the school. That's so great—the public schools really need that kind of help." (She sends her children to private school.)

I wish I had replied that I am not spending lots of time at my daughter's school trying to fix things (of course, there is always room for improvement!). Rather, I am trying to let parents know that there are more than just a few good schools in our district and to help them make informed decisions about where to send their children to school.

I wish I had told her that many public schools would be good enough for her children, and what a benefit it is for all children in our city when we become active stakeholders in the public school system. It becomes about *all* of our children, instead of "those children" in "those schools."

I am not a zealot who is anti-private school. But it is a shame that in a liberal enclave such as Noe Valley, many families do not even consider the public schools.

No, I am not naive about our public schools. There is a lot that needs changing. I have many unanswered questions about facilities, finances, teacher quality, etc. I have been working with many parents all over the city who feel "disrespected" by the school district and disenfranchised from real decision-making. I agree that there is bureaucratic "bloat" at the administrative level and there are serious problems when segments of our student body do not achieve.

However, I am sure that when parents and the community organize to demand better services from our district (and state), we can increase academic achievement for all students in our district.

For these reasons I have helped to start a local chapter of a national organization, Parents for Public Schools (PPS). We are the only group in the city recruiting families into the public schools while at the same time working for school- and district-wide reform.

Our kickoff event in October attracted 300 participants, mainly families of preschoolers, the "new blood" in our schools! In our short history we have successfully worked with the school board, community members, and families at a local school to keep a principal; have been invited to be part of the community advisory committee on the search for a new superintendent; and have worked with hundreds of families helping them select a school and navigate the application process. We see ourselves as solution-oriented and proactive advocates for public schools who would "rather light a candle than curse the darkness" (Adlai Stevenson, speaking about Eleanor Roosevelt).

On May 20 (10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at James Lick School), we will be launching our task forces for reform. This meeting will bring together families in the public schools and families of preschoolers to focus on how parents can advocate for excellence for all children in our public schools.

Parents for Public Schools

will sponsor a neighborhood meeting to create task forces focused on reform in the city schools. Everyone is welcome.

**Saturday, May 20
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**James Lick Middle School
1220 Noe Street at Clipper**

Parking is available in the schoolyard.

Childcare will be available, but please indicate number of children when registering. To register, call (415) 642-6260, or email zacharin@sirius.com.

It is crucial that parents remember that effective parent involvement is critical to strong public schools, and strong public schools are critical to our democracy. Parent involvement means parents acting as passionate, committed "owners" of public schools. Ownership of the San Francisco Unified School District gives parents the responsibility and the right to hold their school district accountable for educational excellence.

Thousands of Parents for Public Schools members across the country are creating change in their schools. As parents, we must organize and demand real reform from our school districts and legislatures. Please contact us and add your voice to the solution—our voice is only as strong as our membership. See you at James Lick on May 20th. □

Sandra Halladey is both a Noe Valley resident and the associate director of Parents for Public Schools.

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Upper Noe Rec Center Has Senior-itis

By Heidi Anderson

The longest-running group at Upper Noe Recreation Center—the Upper Noe Senior Citizens Club—is looking for a few new members who have time for some social fun.

What began in 1957 as a men's poker club was quickly overtaken that same year by senior women who transformed it into a sewing club. In the '60s, the seniors knitted up a storm. "In 1973, when I started working here," recalls Upper Noe recreation director Chris Borg, "there were 60 members and a waiting list!"

Ironically, Borg notes, even though the member roster is a lot smaller nowadays (10 active members, both women and men), the group is more organized than 25 years ago. Though they no longer play poker, club members play bingo, bridge, and other card games, go out to restaurants for lunch, and take trips to Reno and Bay Meadows. This year the group is organizing a softball team.

Events are reasonably priced and sometimes subsidized by the city's Rec and Park Department, Borg says.

Some former members have enriched the group with some interesting stories. According to Borg, Angie Carter, vice president of the club for 24 years starting in the early '60s, claimed she grew up playing with neighborhood pal Al Capone, but didn't know it until she moved to California years later.

And Mamie DiMaggio, a club member in the '70s and '80s, said her son gave

Marilyn Monroe a black eye. Mamie was the movie star's sister-in-law, and Monroe used to love to roughhouse with her small nephew. Mamie was married to the only DiMaggio brother who didn't play baseball, Borg says. "He ran the DiMaggio restaurant down on the wharf. Mamie had her own special chair near the entrance where she would sit and sip strawberry margaritas."

Sound like a group with an interesting legacy? You have to be 55 or older to get in. Time has its rewards.

The group meets every Wednesday from noon to 3 p.m. at Upper Noe Rec Center (also known as Day Street Park), 295 Day Street near Sanchez. Snacks and coffee are provided by club members on a rotating basis. Borg's co-director, Tracey Dye, helps coordinate events and is licensed by the city to drive the group in a Rec and Park van.

Borg notes that the twice-yearly overnight trips to Reno (\$35 to \$50) are among the club's best-attended excursions. Another popular outing is the annual day at the races at Bay Meadows. (May they be revisiting their poker club roots?) Starting this month, the seniors will take monthly van trips to malls and other shopping outlets in the Bay Area.

For more information—no fair lying about your age to get in—call the Upper Noe Rec Center at 695-5011, and ask for either Chris Borg or Tracey Dye. □

Alvarado School Unveils Mural

Three Generations Have a Hand in Creating A Major Work of Art

In 1968, Noe Valley sculptor Ruth Asawa started an arts program at the local public school her children attended, Alvarado Elementary School. Her son Paul Lanier, age 10 at the time, helped make a boy holding a red balloon that was part of a giant 30-by-15-foot mosaic mural. The mural was installed at the school, and the Alvarado Arts Program continued to blossom, inspiring many other arts projects throughout the city.

Fast forward 30 years: The mural is still the centerpiece of the schoolyard, and Ruth Asawa has spearheaded a public-private partnership to create another monumental art piece for the school. This time, the lead designer is ceramic artist Paul Lanier. And Paul's daughter (a kindergartner at the school) and her schoolmates all worked on the mural in their clay classes. The new 41-by-11-foot sculpted tile mural is a colorful jigsaw of 1,200 tiles, featuring a huge tree alive with birds and insects.

"This mural shows what wonders children can create when working with artists and using their left-brain and right-brain

skills," says Alvarado Principal Phyllis Matsuno. "The mural project has had an incredible positive impact not only on the academic achievement of the students, but also on our school spirit."

Matsuno points out that Alvarado is the only public school in San Francisco with a fulltime artist-in-residence working in his own ceramics studio.

In addition to the San Francisco Unified School District, the mural project received support from the California Arts Commission, San Francisco Beautification Fund, Jaqueline Hoeffer, Louise Rosenberg Family Fund, Miranda Lux Foundation, Bothin Foundation, and the Ruth Asawa Fund.

To celebrate their achievement, the Alvarado School family—including three generations of Asawa-Laniers—will hold a mural unveiling ceremony on Saturday, May 20, at 2 p.m. The event will take place in front of the mural, located on the Eureka Street side of the school building (at 625 Douglass Street).

Noe Valley residents are invited to come applaud the big—and little—sculptors who have created an outdoor artwork the whole neighborhood can enjoy. □



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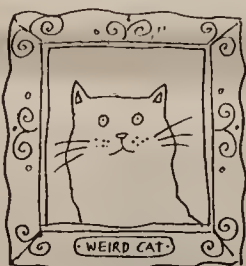
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Gone But Not Forgotten

The Buckleys' House on 22nd Street

By Jim Costello

There was this house on 22nd Street in San Francisco between Noe and Sanchez streets. It belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Buckley and their six children: Jerry, Tom, Jack, Nancy, Peggy, and Jim. There were other occupants—every boy and girl in the Noe Valley. The door was always open, morning, noon, and night. I don't believe Mom and Dad Buckley realized how many kids they really had, but I would venture to say it was well into the hundreds.

It was my pleasure to have lived in the neighborhood from 1930 to 1941. I spent more time at the Buckleys' than anyplace in San Francisco, and went in and out of that open door as often as my adopted brothers and sisters. Yes, I considered myself one of their kids.

The early 1930s were hard years. We were in the tail end of the Depression, and money was scarce. Most mothers with eight mouths to feed would have been reluctant to hand out food to every kid in the neighborhood, but not "Mom" Buckley. She always had biscuits or "Irish" bread, coffee, or tea for those entering the house, and always with the words, "Have some more!"

The only outside enjoyment for Dad (and sometimes Mom) was to read the "Irish Sporting Page" to see if an Irish person had passed away. It didn't matter if they were acquainted with the person who had died. They'd go to the funeral parlor anyway. It was a sure place to meet someone they knew, especially if the departed was from their old county in Ireland. At the Irish wakes, the men would gather in the restroom and pass the bottle around, either toasting the departed or "roasting" him, depending on how he lived his life.

But the favorite pastime for us kids was running around outside. Jerry, who liked to play football, was laid up for a while with water on the knee. It was hard on him, sitting on the front porch watching the rest of us play ball. He was never one for inactivity.

Tom had a job with Pete, the fruit and vegetable man, and he would throw us apples and oranges as we followed behind the truck. Tom didn't make much money, but we enjoyed the fruit.

The latter part of the '30s were better years. The Depression was over, and jobs for kids our age began to open up. We played card games almost every night—Dad, Jerry, Tom, and I—or if one of us was missing, Jack would sit in. "Pedro" was the game—a nickel a game—and after the games were over, Mom would serve her famous "Irish" bread and coffee. I think Dad enjoyed those games—he was always the first one to sit down at the table. When he could smell victory, he'd throw down an ace and shout to his partner, "Were you ever drunk at a fair?!"

This was the era when people held parties, and put the keg of beer on the kitchen table with a tub of ice under it. And a keg of beer it was, the old wooden kind, the size of a wine barrel. Someone would have a fiddle, and Tom Brown would play his accordion, and Nancy would be dancing the Irish jig.

Before you knew it, it was time to



Brothers Tom, Jerry, and Jack (on the pony) in front of the Buckleys' house at 3733 22nd Street. Photos courtesy of Joe and Nancy Arsenault

head off to 6 a.m. mass, with the women punching their husbands in the ribs to keep them awake. Then away we went back to the Buckleys' for breakfast or whatever your pleasure.

There were the trips to K.R.B. Hall (Knights of the Red Branch) to learn the Irish dances, and always at the corner bar "Frog Eyes" Twomey. There were dances at St. James, the Irish picnics, and the nickel swimming pool off Valencia Street. A towel and bathing suit for a nickel. Football games on Sunday, and a long walk to the Gray Brothers Quarry on 30th Street. It would be like walking from Visitacion Valley to Brisbane.

Again and again, the parties, dancing, laughter, and happiness at the house at 3733 22nd St. Oh, there were moments when Mom lost her temper, but it seemed most of it went to Nancy and Tom. Jerry was always doing something around the house, but Tom always had his eye on the front door, and Nancy, being the oldest girl, was expected to help with the housework.



Jerry, Tom, and Jack Buckley in 1942. They're about to ship off to Europe, Alaska, and the South Pacific to fight in World War II.

Nancy was approaching the age of boys and makeup, and one time she spent a little too long in the bathroom and Dad got upset and broke in the door. This was big news because Mr. Buckley was generally quite calm and even known as the original "Quiet Man" (from the movie by the same name).

Jerry was the first of the gang to get a car. I remember one Sunday we decided we'd like to go for a ride, but when we got to the house, he was grinding the valves. That shot a hole in our plans. Do you know he was still grinding them three weeks later?!

When we entered the 1940s, Peggy was about 9 or 10—a cute little redhead with the devil in her eyes—not old enough to bear the wrath of Mom or Dad. Little Jim (about 7) looked a lot like I did when I was his age, and his eyes would get as big as Mom's biscuits when I'd tell him I was a friend of the Lone Ranger. I promised him a silver bullet and a horse, and I gave him a mountain of excuses for why I couldn't give them to him—just yet!

"Mom" Buckley took a lot of kidding from me. I tied her apron strings to a chair or loosened them as she walked by. I banged her waffles or biscuits on the table. But it was all in fun and we loved every minute of it.

The war came upon us, and on my last furlough home from basic training, before going overseas, it was hard to go to that house on the hill and say goodbye to one of the greatest, most loving women I'd ever met. I walked away with tears in my eyes.

After the war, things changed. There was a drifting away from the City by the Bay. Everybody moved to the suburbs, and tended to lose touch.

I'm sorry I didn't stay closer to my adopted family throughout the years, because it sure would be a thrill to see all the "kids" and that smiling, happy lady, "Mom" Buckley. □

Jim Costello wrote this fond reminiscence in the 1960s. It found its way to the Voice courtesy of Mike Mannion, a nephew of "Mom" Buckley residing in San Francisco. Mike put us in contact with the "Nancy" of the story, Nancy Arsenault, who now lives in San Bruno with her husband Joe. Nancy, 73, reports that their old friend Jim Costello passed away in 1991, joining her parents and all but one of her siblings, older brother Jerry. Her father, Jeremiah Buckley, died in 1957 at the age of 70. Mrs. Buckley, whose maiden name was Margaret Browne, lived to the ripe old age

Gone But Not Forgotten

The Noe Valley Voice would like to publish your recollections of people, places, and things from Noe Valley's past. Mail your manuscript, which should be under 1,000 words, to Gone But Not Forgotten, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send an email version (not an attachment, please) to jaxvoice@aol.com. Thank you.



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'Mom' Buckley's Irish Bread

Thanks to Margaret Buckley's daughter Nancy Arsenault—and to Nancy's husband Joe, who has made bread-baking his specialty—we now have a chance to savor "Mom" Buckley's famous Irish soda bread. Here's the recipe, prized on 22nd Street since the 1920s.

Ingredients

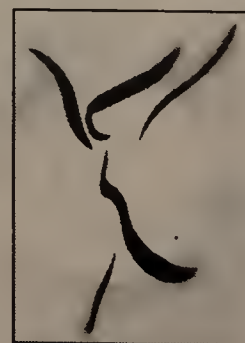
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 to 2 tablespoons caraway seeds
- 1/4 cup raisins

Sift together first four ingredients in large bowl. Combine eggs and buttermilk and stir into flour mixture. Fold in caraway seeds and raisins. Pour batter into greased iron skillet or loaf pan. Bake at 350° for about 1 hour. Rub butter on top.



Margaret Browne, later known as "Mom" Buckley, at age 25. Margaret was born in 1890 in Waterford, Ireland, and came to San Francisco in 1913. She and her husband Jeremiah Buckley bought their house on 22nd Street for \$4,400 in 1927.

of 93. (She was born in Waterford, Ireland, in 1890.) Nancy, who with Joe has raised four children in Visitacion Valley, says she can't imagine a happier childhood than the one she spent in Noe Valley. "We thought we lived in heaven! In those days, my girlfriend Bridie and I would hike up to Twin Peaks and pick the wildflowers. Mom and I would walk down and shop on 24th Street and then jump on the 'Dinkey' [the Castro cable car], and she would sweet-talk the conductor into letting us ride back up the hill for nothing! We had the best time."



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Miramar Works Both Sides of the Digital Divide

A Video Studio with a Social Conscience

By Stephanie Rapp

Move over, multimedia gulch. There's another hub for digital production in town, and it's right here in Noe Valley.

Located on Church at 29th Street, documentary producer Studio Miramar is riding the crest of the digital wave. For over a decade, Miramar has been at the forefront of the movement to combine video and computers as a media tool, one with the potential to highlight issues of equality and social justice.

Husband and wife David Bolt and Sue Ellen McCann founded Miramar, named after the street they were living on, in 1990. "There was no need for us to be in multimedia gulch," says Bolt. After losing their Potrero Hill lease, Bolt and McCann moved to Noe Valley in 1998. It was an easy decision for Bolt, who had fond memories of the neighborhood from his brief stint as a resident in 1980.

Though he notices the dramatic gentrification that has occurred in his almost-two-decade absence, he thinks the neighborhood still retains its unique character.

"We love being here in this part of Noe Valley," Bolt says. "Everything we need is right here." Many of Miramar's nonprofit clients prefer to take public transportation, and the J-Church stops right outside the studio's door.

The staff also appreciates the community of media professionals who call Noe Valley home. "San Francisco generates an independent film community that is recognized throughout the country," Bolt says with pride.

Studio Miramar has been the source of dozens of projects that focus on themes of participatory democracy. Its most recent production, a four-part PBS series titled *Digital Divide: Technology and Our Future*, aired nationally in January and locally on KQED in March.

Bolt is executive producer of the documentary, which examines the chasm between those with computer skills and access to technology and those without. The divide between the information haves and have-nots is growing, he says, and it often splits along racial, economic, educational, and gender lines.

For example, white Americans are twice as likely to have access to the Internet from home as are African Americans or Hispanics from any location. Households with incomes of \$75,000 or more are nine times more likely to have a computer at home and 20 times more likely to have access to the Internet than those at the lowest income levels.

The series, which focuses on children, questions the widely held belief that technology is the great social leveler, an issue that is particularly relevant in the Bay Area, the nexus for the high-tech revolution. It also spotlights the importance of training teachers in the use of computers, and explores some innovative programs that are doing just that.

Bolt says that although the divide might seem insurmountable, there are many ways that individuals can work to increase access for students and young people. He suggests volunteering at public schools, to enable them to keep their computer facilities open after hours.

Bolt also encourages people to find out where their closest computer technology center (CTC) is. "The Boys and Girls Club in the Mission has an ongoing program, as do local YWCAs, the NAACP, and the Urban League," he offers.



Documentary makers (l. to r.) David Bolt, Sue Ellen McCann, Colleen Wilson, and their creative team of humans (and at least one dog) operate Studio Miramar on Church and 29th streets.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

"We try to encourage adults to share how much computers have changed their work lives. Young people learn that it is not just about becoming computer programmers. Every profession has been transformed by the digital revolution."

Narrated by rap star Queen Latifah, *Digital Divide* took three years to create, from initial funding to national broadcast. Bolt and McCann began circulating the proposal for the documentary in 1997 and won backing from the Independent Television Service (ITVS) and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The original program is four hours long; Miramar had to edit the film down to a two-hour version for KQED, although many stations decided to air the piece in its entirety.

Making video documentaries is an inherently collaborative process, involving dozens of people in writing, production, fundraising, and editing. The core Miramar team includes Bolt, McCann, Colleen Wilson, Marissa Vitello, and Gretchen Stolje. For the *Digital Divide* series, they worked with literally hundreds of contractors and consultants.

Wilson moved to San Francisco to work on *Digital Divide*. Canine-friendly Noe Valley appeals to Wilson, who brings her dog to work with her. According to Wilson, documentaries are often about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. "A good documentary requires the filmmaker to have rapport with the subjects and an ability to tell a compelling story."

Right now, Bolt is raising money to continue outreach efforts on behalf of the series. With the support of the Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation and the Ford Foundation, Bolt is able to take the year off from making films to promote the program.

But *Digital Divide* is much more than a television show. It has spawned a book, co-written by Bolt, who will be going on a book tour later this year. It also has been a catalyst for community events and forums around the country. In San Francisco, educational events were held at KQED, San Francisco State University, and the children's technology museum Zeum.

Bolt and his team are launching a follow-up series, which will explore the impact of the digital divide on adults. The first episode will cover workforce development. "In the future, everyone, from cutting-edge programmers to the average Joe or Jane, will need to repeatedly acquire new skills," he maintains.

Bolt was working at the George Lucas Educational Foundation when he and McCann decided to found Miramar. They started out producing projects for nonprofit groups, but soon shifted to creating their own projects.

The *Digital Divide* series was a natural outgrowth of Bolt and McCann's background, as well as their son's interests.

"Our son grew up on the right side of the digital divide," Bolt says. His exposure to computers and technology began at Lowell High School. He then studied computer science at U.C. San Diego.

Bolt's own past jobs included a stint as vice president of technology at the California College of Arts and Crafts. As executive director of the Bay Area Video Coalition, he pioneered a program teaching people how to use digital technology to

produce short pieces for local nonprofits.

McCann, now on sabbatical from Miramar while working as an executive producer at KQED, has produced documentaries for the television series *Frontline*. Her credits include *Global Dumping Ground*, *Little Criminals*, and *The Best Campaign Money Can Buy*.

Issues of social justice remain at the core of Studio Miramar. While the studio does have a few commercial clients, including Sprint and Lockheed, its clients are primarily nonprofit organizations.

Bolt has documented an indigenous irrigation project in the Himalayas for the Food and Agricultural Organization and taught journalists in Nepal to create their own environmental television series, today one of the most highly rated programs in the nation. A less exotic but equally important project was creating educational kiosks about HIV transmission among African-American men.

Studio Miramar gives Bolt an opportunity to combine his commitment to community activism with his background in multimedia production. And if he continues to produce programs like *Digital Divide*, he can be assured of a winning combination. □



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SHORT TAKES

Study of HIV Quality of Life

Researchers at UCSF's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) are looking for men and women living with HIV to participate in a new study aimed at improving health and well-being in the HIV community. Along with researchers from three other institutions, the UCSF research team hopes to determine the specific challenges faced by HIV-positive men and women.

"Due to major changes in treatments, the situation for many people living with HIV is phenomenally different than a few years ago," says Margaret Chesney, CAPS co-director and the study's principal investigator. "Some people are choosing not to take medications, some are faced with side effects, and some have learned that the drugs do not work for them," she says.

CAPS researchers plan to enroll 300 HIV-positive subjects, who will be divided into two research arms. Participants in the first group will attend 15 one-on-one meetings with project staffers over the course of a year. The meetings will focus on difficult issues in the subjects' lives, including managing their health care, disclosing their HIV status, and dealing with their sexuality. The meetings will also explore ways to cope with these challenges in a positive way.

Participants in the second group also will take part in a series of one-on-one meetings, but the focus will be modified to reflect what researchers have learned from the first group.

"The study will allow us to examine the effects of a one-on-one intervention, and how people living with HIV in San Francisco are dealing with a range of situations. What we learn will provide guidelines for structuring future support to the HIV community," says Chesney.

The study is funded by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. All eligible participants will receive cash for each visit.

To qualify for the project, candidates must be HIV-positive and 18 years of age or older. Interested persons should call Neal Carnes, recruitment coordinator, at 415-597-4669 for more information.

A New Crop of Readers

Wouldn't you like to help foster literacy in low-income families? Easy. Stop in at Cover to Cover Booksellers this month and pluck a blossom from the tree.

During the month of May, the store will showcase a "tree" covered with "blossoms," with the names of young readers. Each time a customer buys a book for one of the children, a bloom is pulled from the tree and replaced with a bright red apple saying "Thank You" to the donor.

All books donated will go to low-income or homeless kids, through either the Home Away From Homelessness program or the Prescription for Reading program coordinated by S.F. General's Pediatrics Department.

This is the eighth year Cover to Cover has done its Growing Readers tree, and it's always been successful. "Everybody is so happy to help out here in Noe Valley, and people sometimes buy four or five books. It really warms my heart," says Tracy Wynne, one of the store's co-owners.

The folks at the store know the kids' ages and interests and can suggest a book, or you can pick out a favorite of your own. The store combines the books with other age-appropriate materials (posters, pencils, etc.) donated by publishers, and

each child gets a bag of the goodies. Almost 200 kids will be so gifted this year.

To participate, visit Cover to Cover at 3812 24th Street (near Church), or call 282-8080 and ask the staff to choose a book for you.

Every Bug Has His Day

The creepy, crawly, wiggly, cute "little creatures" that run the world await you at Bug Day at the Randall Museum. Kids of all ages are invited to attend this event on Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The museum will be buzzing with activity as visitors watch "Insect Olympics," try out a video microscope, hunt for wild critters, see bees at work, cheer maggot races, and discover the joys of butterfly gardening. Friendly and knowledgeable entomologists will be on hand, offering demonstrations and answering questions.

Kids can play with walking sticks, giant cockroaches, ladybugs, woolly bear caterpillars, and other live insects. For those who don't want to touch the real thing, there are plenty of opportunities to make "bug" art.

At 11:30 a.m., author Francisco Jimenez's story "La Mariposa" will be read by Norman Zelaya. It's a moving story about a boy struggling to learn a new language in a new country, and an unlikely friend—a caterpillar—who helps him find his way. Both the story hour and Bug Day are free of charge (and bug bites).

The museum is located at 199 Museum Way off Roosevelt, above the Castro. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Call 554-9600 if you have questions.

4 Singers Do "Songs @ Noe"

We may be living in a global village these days, but when it comes to music, some of the best artists can still be found in our own back yard.

Such is the premise of "Songs @ Noe," a songwriters concert taking place Friday, May 12, at 8 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry. The brainchild of Noe Valley resident Steve August, "Songs @ Noe" will feature four local songwriters—Deborah Pades, Andrew Kerr, John Lester, and August himself.

While all these performers live here, their music has national and international reach. The evening will celebrate their commitment to the vibrant Bay Area music scene, and specifically honor their connection to Noe Valley and the people who have supported their careers.

Several local businesses have signed on as sponsors. One, the Schmaltz Brewing Company based on Cesar Chavez Street, will be serving up its own He'brew Beer, advertised as "The Chosen Beer."

Tickets (normally \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 5) will be half price if you bring a receipt from Pasta Pomodoro, Cafe J, the Dolores Park Cafe, or Streetlight Records, or if you're taking music lessons from Chris Gray, Dennis White, or Alex Candelaria.

"All of the performers feel very strongly about trying to reach out to the local community and find where we can be of mutual help to each other," says August. "Like many local businesses, we are small entities in an increasingly corporate world."

That's not to say the talent is small. Pades performed at the Lilith Fair last year and is regularly featured on "West Coast Live" on KALW Radio. Lester won Song of the Year honors in 1999 in the Northern California Songwriters Association's open mike playoffs. Kerr got his start in standup comedy, and August made Honorable Mention in the international John Lennon Songwriting Contest.

The Noe Valley Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez Street. The doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m. For more information, call 339-8833.



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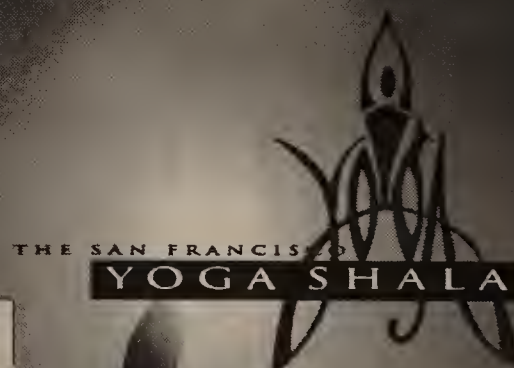
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SHORT TAKES

Cinco de Mayo and Carnaval

The forecast for May calls for a hot month in the Mission District.

First, San Francisco's annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival will be held on Sunday, May 7, starting at 10 a.m. The parade will kick off at 24th and Bryant streets and move up 24th Street to Mission Street, then up Mission to 20th and down 20th to Bryant.

Then at Civic Center Plaza from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., three stages will showcase music and dance from mariachi, salsa, and other Latin bands. A classic car show, a bike show and competition, food booths, arts and crafts, and free activities for kids will round out the day. General admission to the festival is \$5; \$2 for seniors. Children under 12 are admitted free.

Then get ready for Carnaval, which happens Sunday, May 28, with a parade that also starts at 10 a.m. at 24th and Bryant, proceeding up 24th to Mission Street, following Mission to 14th, and then 14th to Harrison.

The Carnaval festival will follow at 11 a.m. (till 7 p.m.), on Harrison Street between 16th and 22nd streets. Two stages of live entertainment will feature merringue, salsa, jazz, Caribbean, Brazilian, and reggae music. More food booths, arts, crafts, and free activities for kids will also be in evidence, and admission is free.

For information on either event, call the Mission Economic Cultural Association at 826-1401.

Neighborhood Beauty Contest

San Francisco Beautiful is looking for nominations for its annual Beautification Awards. The group needs your help in identifying not-so-obvious beautifications and exemplary neighborhood improvement efforts. Thinking of projects like landscaping, historic preservation, litter and graffiti reduction, murals, or things that enhance an area's sense of place, ask yourself, What individual, organization, or business has made a positive contribution to our environment? What project has captured the imagination of the neighborhood's residents?

Then call San Francisco Beautiful at 421-2608 to nominate the beautifier, or you can email them at sfb@sirius.com, or fax them at 421-4037. Nominations are due by June 1. The awards will be presented at the group's annual awards dinner on Oct. 26 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. You can find out more about San Francisco Beautiful at its web site at www.sfbeautiful.org.

Sick of Your Commute?

Try a change of pace on Bike to Work Day on Tuesday, May 16. You can save money, get exercise, and have some fun, leaving the traffic congestion and Muni waits behind.

"I bike because it's much faster for me," says Gretchen Glatte, a pastry chef who rides from her Jersey Street home to her workplace on Potrero Hill. "It keeps me connected and makes me get outside every day and feel the weather," she adds.

To speed you on your way May 16, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition is sponsoring several "energizer stations" around town with free treats and goodies for bicyclists only. On Valencia between 17th and 18th during the morning commute (7 to 9 a.m.), free coffee, treats, and tote bags can be had, and you can join the Bike Train that leaves for downtown at 8:30 a.m.

Once you get downtown, secure, mon-

itored bike parking is available (free) at Market and Battery streets from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Stop back at Valencia and 18th for more energizing on the way home, any time between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

If you're a little rusty (or your bike is), take advantage of the Coalition's events in preparation for the big day. There'll be Urban Biking workshops on Sunday, May 7, and Sunday, May 14, at 1 p.m., in Peacock Meadow in Golden Gate Park (on JFK Drive near McLaren Lodge). The class covers basic riding skills and safety tips. Bring your bike for the hands-on practice.

And if your bike hasn't been out of the garage since Hector was a pup, Bike Doctor Clinics will be held in the same Golden Gate Park location, on the same days, from noon till 3 p.m. Volunteer mechanics will be on hand to help you get your bike in shape.

For details on the workshops or other Bike to Work events in May, call 431-BIKE or check out www.sfbike.org.

Integral Yoga Turns 30

The San Francisco Integral Yoga Institute first opened its doors at 770 Dolores Street in 1970, and as part of its 30th anniversary celebration, the Institute will host an Open House on Saturday, May 13, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., featuring free classes. The Institute's founder and director, Swami Satchidananda, will be in San Francisco for a series of events commemorating the anniversary, as well as his own 50th year since becoming a monk.

In 1966, Swami Satchidananda came to the United States for a brief visit and discovered a generation of Americans eager for his teachings on how to find peace and universal understanding. He was asked to lead an opening prayer at Woodstock, where he urged the crowd to demonstrate to the world that in a time of war, it is possible to live together in peace.

The Swami will give a lecture titled "To Live Freely and Joyously" at the Herbst Theatre on May 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. For more information on any of the anniversary events, or for tickets to the lecture, call the Institute at 821-1117.

Ron Wilmot Bike Ride

As bike rides go, the Ron Wilmot Bike Ride for Project Inform may not be a demanding athletic event—but it is a very special one. On Saturday, May 13, more than 100 bicyclists from around the Bay Area will assemble in Golden Gate Park for a leisurely seven-mile ride to benefit Project Inform, a key resource for HIV/AIDS treatment information.

This year, riders who raise \$100 or more will be entered into a raffle for a vacation package to London for two people. Riders who raise funds at the \$500, \$1,000, and \$2,000 levels will also receive prizes, including weekend get-aways and bike clothing packages.

Six years ago, Ron Wilmot started the ride as a way for people who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to get involved with Project Inform and learn how they can improve their health—or the health of someone they care about—by educating themselves about the disease. Although Ron died of AIDS in 1997, the fundraising he pioneered goes on.

Check-in for the ride is at 9 a.m. in Peacock Meadow, just past McLaren Lodge, on JFK Boulevard in Golden Gate Park. To register, call Project Inform at 558-8669, extension 223, or go to the group's web site at www.projectinform.org.



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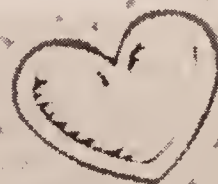
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VALLEY VIEWS

Take It Easy

By Robert Warren Cromey

Recently, I made a decision not to hurry anymore. Driving fast in the city, zippy walking, dashing hither and thither made me anxious. I was not any more on time than I used to be. I am one of those guys who is always on time or early. By not hurrying, I find I still am seldom late. So I choose to take my time. The same amount of work gets done. I am still hardworking, goal-oriented, successful. But I don't hustle.

It is a great relief. On Franklin Street, I now enjoy a red light and a stop sign. It is a moment to rest, watch, and listen. I feel self-righteous. People in their cars zoom ahead and ignore the lights and signs. "What's the hurry?" I wonder.

I notice I often catch up with them at the next signal. Not always. Sometimes I see the red-light runner a couple of blocks ahead of me. "I hope she gets what she wants," I murmur piously to myself.

Sometimes on Gough Street, I get honks from behind. Instead of the finger, I give them a friendly wave. I look at them in my mirror and smile, after uttering silently the usual expletive. Often I wave them on to pass me. Sometimes I delay just a bit to annoy them, and then I look at them in a friendly manner. I am not perfect, you know.

Other times I look up when honked at and put on my shocked, surprised look. That usually brings on a sneer. But I smile and wave. That may be what Jesus means by turning the other cheek, though I am not sure of that.

On Dolores Street, I wave pedestrians to pass in front of me at stop signs. I am told this may be a dangerous act, as the pedestrian may be hit by other cars who

may not stop. I'd rather err on the side of helpfulness, assuming pedestrians are cautious while crossing. I am polite and let them go first.

In my new life of not hurrying while driving, I let Muni go first and give them the right of way. After all, they are carrying 5 to 50 people on the bus. I am usually alone. They deserve the go-ahead.

A retort to my style would be: "If everybody drove like you do, Cromey, the traffic would be slower than ever!"

That may well be true. It also may not be a bad thing. Too many people drive too many cars and trucks too fast in this city, and too many people are killed or injured on our streets. One hundred and twenty people every day are killed in auto accidents in the United States. Since January, there have been 11 pedestrian fatalities in San Francisco alone.

I suspect that the traffic will only get better after it gets a lot worse. Perhaps by not hurrying we can make it worse sooner. Nowadays, cars and trucks dominate the city. Pedestrians are no longer our chief concern. I am one who thinks we should have no more garages, street widening, or freeways coursing through San Francisco. We should do everything

we can to have fewer cars. Better public transportation, more walking and biking, and slower traffic patterns will make the city a more human and humane place.

Now I must confess that I often do walk fast. We are told that 30 minutes of brisk walking every day will bring us better health and longer lives. I admire men and women who walk to work wearing proper athletic shoes, carrying more formal wear for when they reach the office. I do some hard walking from time to time.

However, I also enjoy the stroll. I like what I call urban hikes: going through interesting neighborhoods. Twenty-fourth Street has babies and coffee. Castro Street boasts same-gender affection in black leather jackets. West Portal is calm and sedate. Union Street has stores like museums. Chestnut is full of lively employed young adults sitting on the sidewalk. Haight Street has unemployed young adults lounging on the sidewalk. Clement Street is crammed with Asian shops, and with a Russian bakery and competitive restaurants. Mission Street has the barrio air with a red and yellow piñata for all. Chinatown is another world, a magnet for tourists. These streets are meant for strolling.



It's Coming. Well, Something's Coming. If you don't think San Francisco drivers are in a hurry, try crossing 24th Street at Noe on a Saturday afternoon. This trio seems to tempt fate by venturing into the bus zone, perhaps in search of an elusive 48-Quintara. Photo by Charles Kennard

Sadly, these excursions are marred and made dangerous by speeding and honking cars, taxis, buses, and the abomination of bikes on the sidewalk. But the walks are still worthwhile.

Swimming is also more enjoyable when I go more slowly, stretching my limbs. The Koret Athletic Center at the University of San Francisco has a delicious gleaming swimming pool. I get the feel of the green-blue water enveloping me. The rhythm of breathing feels good. On my back for several laps, face down in the water, up for breathing every fourth stroke...the swim is sensuous as well as wet. I don't have to hurry.

When I bike along the Great Highway, other bikers whiz by me at zip-along speeds. I don't mind. I bike for pleasure. I watch the gray waves and blue sky. The green of the park and the magic of Stow Lake are places to enjoy and not race by.

The old cliché is "stop and smell the roses." I look at people's faces, clothes, and bodies. Listen to the sounds of voices, accents, and languages. Notice the delicious racial and ethnic mix of people strolling the city—Asians, Irish, Italians, African-Americans, WASPS.... Smell the food cooking and perfumes in the air (and grunt at the ugly smells, too).

No need to rush. Not all life is big business, the fast lane, making a buck, and hot sales. I enjoy my life a lot more since I have stopped hurrying. □

A Noe Valley resident for 15 years, Robert Warren Cromey is the author of In God's Image: Gay and Lesbian Rights in the Eyes of the Church, published by Alamo Square Press. He has been rector of Trinity Episcopal Church on Bush Street for 18 years. His wife Anne teaches English at the Convent of the Sacred Heart High School, making her, he notes, "an ex-Mormon, married to an Episcopal priest, who teaches at a Roman Catholic school." Cromey's three daughters and six grandchildren live in New England. He enjoys strolling along 24th Street as well as following the J-Church tracks to Dolores Park.

VALLEY VIEWS

The People, United, Will Never Be Defeated

By Will Walker

When I'm on 24th Street and in need of a feeling of empowerment, I just sashay past Starbucks a couple of times. I don't even slow down to peek in the window.

You see, I'm a Starbucks boycotter. I object to the chain's moving in across the street from an existing coffee store. The Starbucks at 24th and Noe, which came in about six years ago, went head to head with Spinelli Coffee Company (now Tully's, another chain!).

I understand that it's just capitalism. Still, I resent it. And I'm driven to take action. What else can I do as a consumer but lash out, viciously, at their bottom line?

These days I am heartened to note that my guerrilla tactics are proving extremely effective. You might say, pshaw, business looks rather good in that spick-and-span emporium of exotic caffeinated beverages. I say, nonsense, there's no sister store on the same block, thanks to my personal crusade.

I take pride in my boycotts. Starbucks

is the latest in a long line of inspired campaigns. Bank of America, I think, was the first institution to suffer the sting of my wrath. Back in the days when you could purchase a used car with a rotary engine, I put down \$50 on just such a car being offered for sale by a man in white plastic loafers and a burgundy double-knit sports coat. I immediately thought better of my purchase, however, so I hustled over to my BofA branch and put a stop-payment on the check. BofA cashed the check anyway, and it took me an hour of cooling my heels at the branch manager's desk to get my money back. Once my account was properly credited, I closed it, and I've not set foot in a BofA since—although I do confess to using their ATMs a couple of times, before they started charging a fee to noncustomers.

Perhaps my boycott was ill-considered. After all, a year or so ago Bank of America suffered a profit loss that led to an erosion in its management capability and its eventual takeover by a ruthless outsider. Then again, based on how they handled my stop-payment, I'd say they got what was coming to them.

Wells Fargo was next on my boycott list. I'm not sure of the exact incident that tipped the balance. I just developed a feeling over the years that if I happened to be waiting in line at the bank and then sneezed and a teller said *Gesundheit*, I'd find a service charge for the transaction on my account. I also dimly remember that my wife Valerie had some problems with unwarranted charges, but that's a story she would have to tell. I can barely keep

track of my own grievances.

Everyone loves to hate banks, but I've also suffered a boycott-worthy offense at a local restaurant. I used to meet a friend for lunch on Thursdays at Bull's on Van Ness, until one day the bartender got my goat. I had invested an uncharacteristic, celebratory couple of dollars in the jukebox to hear their full Van Morrison catalog, and just when Van was launching into "Wild Nights," the management turned the sound off and cranked up the volume on a Giants' playoff game. Now, I'm a Giants fan, and I wouldn't have minded listening to the game, but I was not pleased to have the manager refuse to refund my jukebox money. I've never darkened their doors again.

I feel certain my absence has been damaging to the club. Business still looks brisk, but you'll notice that Bull's hasn't managed to open any other San Francisco locations or franchise the operation. I may not have opened a can of whup-ass on 'em, as they say down in Texas, but I've definitely put the hurt on 'em.

While I admit I am somewhat fanatical about my targets for boycott, I know I'm not the only one who has such strong feelings. For years, Valerie has waged a campaign against a certain movie theater in town (with the initials O.P.). She began her boycott after several bad experiences involving surly help. Again, she'd have to be the one to supply the gory details, but the upshot is, we never, ever patronize that theater.

We aren't sure of the economic consequences of our protest, since we don't

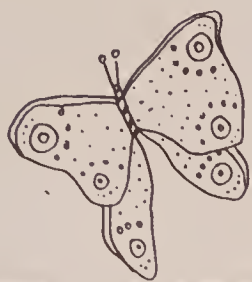
VALLEY VIEWS

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to express your fervent opinions on issues affecting the neighborhood. Mail manuscripts, which should be no more than 1,000 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email jaxvoice@aol.com. Include your name, address, and phone number, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like your manuscript returned. Thank you.

have occasion to go near the place. However, about six months ago Valerie was delighted to read a newspaper column in which the writer reported encountering the same sort of disrespect from the help there. Valerie's crusade may not have closed the theater's doors, but it is no doubt gathering steam among disgruntled patrons.

With all this focus on boycotts, you're probably wondering if we have any time left in our lives for fun. Don't be silly; revenge is one of life's most underrated pleasures. And besides—show me someone who loves everyone in the world, and I'll show you a person who isn't really paying close attention. □

Will Walker is incensed that the Voice decided to withhold the full name of the theater he and his wife are boycotting. And now he's threatening to boycott us!



MAY 2000

MAY 1–JUNE 5: "Re-Imagining the Masculine" is a movement and ART WORKSHOP for men, led by Dietmar Brinkman. Mondays, 7:15–9:15 pm. Studio C, 3252A 19th St. 643-1250.

MAY 2, 9, 23 & 30: Preschool STORY TIME, a program for children ages 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

MAY 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: The Noe Valley Library holds LAPSITS for toddlers. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

MAY 3–JUNE 14: Learn the basics of TAROT reading, using the Rider Waite deck. Wednesdays, 7 to 9 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

MAY 4–14; JUNE 8–18: Cheryl Simone performs a SOLO PLAY, *Single With Kids*. Thurs.–Sat., 8:30 pm; Sun., 7:30 pm. May performances at El Teatro de la Esperanza, 2940 16th St., 255-2320; June performances at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

MAY 5: Advocates for Upper Noe Recreation Center sponsors a CLEANUP DAY at the park, at Day and Sanchez. 9 am–noon. Call Alison, 282-4796.

MAY 6: The Mothers of Twins Club hosts a GARAGE SALE with twice as many clothes, toys, and sundries for children. 9 am–3 pm. St. John of God Church, Fifth Ave. at Irving. 431-5751.

MAY 6: The Festival on the Hill's SUN CELEBRATION includes giant puppets, kites, crafts, and science fun. 11 am–3 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600, ext. 25.

MAY 6: An ORIGAMI CLUB for all ages begins at 2 pm at the Bernal Heights Library. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

MAY 6 & 20: Friends of the Urban Forest sponsors TREE CARE workdays in Glen Park. Meet at Alma Hecht's house, 357 Chenery between Mateo and Miguel. 8:30 am. 561-6890, ext. 102.



The 85-year-old founder of Integral Yoga Institute, Swami Satchidananda, will speak May 11 at the Herbst Theatre.

MAY 6, 13, 20 & 27: Saturday ART WORKSHOPS at the de Young Museum include "Big Kids/Little Kids," for ages 3½ to 6, and "Doing and Viewing Art," for ages 7 to 12. 2–3:30 pm. Golden Gate Park. 750-3614.

MAY 7: Celebrate CINCO DE MAYO with a 10 am parade in the Mission and a festival in the Civic Center Plaza, featuring music, food, and a low-rider car show. 11 am–6 pm. 826-1401.

MAY 7: A SECRET GARDEN TOUR by the Miraloma Park Improvement Club offers a map of selected sites and a reception. 1–4 pm. Call 334-5284.

MAY 7 & 14: Strybing Arboretum's Story Time and GARDEN WALK for kids 4 to 8 (with parents) features a May theme, "Hours of Flowers." 10:30 am. Ninth Ave. & Lincoln. 661-1316, ext. 303.

MAY 9: Tony Sanchez reads his POETRY at 7 pm, followed by an open mike. Keane's 3300 Club, 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

MAY 9, 23 & 30: The Glen Park Library offers a preschool STORY TIME. 10 am. 653 Chenery St. 337-4340.

MAY 9–14: The six-day YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL at the de Young Museum showcases visual and performing arts by students in grades K through 12. Golden Gate Park. 750-3614.

MAY 11: GURU Sri Swami Satchidananda gives a talk, "To Live Freely and Joyously," at 7:30 pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. For information, call the Integral Yoga Institute at 821-1117.

MAY 11 & 25: Array of Light offers an WORKSHOP on home altars, with insights into various spiritual practices. 7–9 pm. 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

MAY 11: At the FRIENDS of Noe Valley meeting, Judy Martens of the Mission YMCA will speak on plans to open a new Y on Clipper Street; plus, members will discuss the "Manhattanization" of the neighborhood. 7:45 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 821-1086.

MAY 11–JUNE 11: The Encore Theatre Company performs the West Coast premiere of Lynne Alvarez's COMEDY, *Hidden Parts*. 8 pm. Thurs.–Sun. Thick House, 1695 18th St. 401-8081.

MAY 12: Four SONGWRITERS, Steve August, Andrew Kerr, John Lester, and Deborah Pades, perform "Songs @ Noe" in the round. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 339-8633.

MAY 12: The INA CHALIS Opera Ensemble gives an all-Tchaikovsky concert to celebrate the composer's 160th anniversary. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

MAY 12–14: The Dance Department of the School of the Arts performs its 18th annual SPRING DANCE CONCERT. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 441-3687.

MAY 12–14: CHOREOGRAPHER Sonya Delwaide performs "Deja Etendu," inspired by Finnish and French-Canadian folk songs. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Dance Mission Theater. 3316 24th St. 835-2124.



"Tomatoe," a pastel by Paul Gibson, will be among the works on display Saturday, May 13, at this year's Open Studios at Hunters Point Shipyard.

MAY 13: Integral Yoga Institute celebrates its 30th anniversary with free HATHA YOGA classes and a video of Sri Satchidananda. 8 am–12:40 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

MAY 13: The Fair Oaks Neighbors' Flea Market and FAIR takes place on five blocks of Fair Oaks between 21st and 26th streets. 9 am to 4 pm. (Rain date is May 20.) See you there!

MAY 13: The seven-mile Ron Wilmot BIKE RIDE through Golden Gate Park benefits Project Inform. Check in at 9 am in Peacock Meadow, just past McLaren Lodge on JFK Blvd. 558-8669.

MAY 13: SLUG sells bargain COM-POST BINS 9 am to 3 pm in the Goodman Lumber parking lot. 445 Bayshore Blvd. Call the "Rotline," 285-7585.

MAY 13: "Women in Transition Talking," a FORUM sponsored by the Older Women's League (OWL), runs from 10 am to 12:30 pm. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. 989-4422.

MAY 13: CHRIS MOLLA performs musical entertainment for children of all ages. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

MAY 13: The Spring OPEN STUDIO at the Hunters Point Shipyard includes Noe Valley artists Robin Davey, Monica Denevan, Ream Fowler, Rene Griffith, Michael Hackett, Marc Ellen Hamel, Wynne Hayakawa, Irene Hendricks, Linda Saytes, and Karen Wenger. 11 am–6 pm. 822-3809.

MAY 13: The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore's all-day celebration of MYSTERY WEEK features writers Camille Minichino and Robin Burcell from 1 to 2 pm, Lynne Murray and Jackie Girdner from 2 to 3 pm, Janet Dawson and Susan Holtzer from 3 to 4 pm, and Jonnie Jacobs and Lora Roberts from 4 to 5 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

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MAY 14: Celebrate Mother's Day at the MILLION MOM MARCH for sensible gun laws, 1 to 3 pm, in Oakland. Meet on the City Hall steps, Polk Street side at 11:30 am, to take BART with the S.F. group. To join, call 554-2747, and leave your name and phone number.

MAY 16: BIKE-TO-WORK DAY, sponsored by Rides for Bay Area Commuters and the S.F. Bicycle Coalition, features free coffee and snacks at various energizer stations. For info: 431-BIKE.

MAY 16: FILMS for preschoolers screen at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

MAY 16: Array of Light hosts a rose quartz CRYSTAL WORKSHOP. 7-9 pm. 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

MAY 16: Rebecca Solnit, author of *Wanderlust: A History of WALKING*, discusses the practical issues of traveling on foot. 7 pm. Get Lost Travel Books, 1825 Market St. 437-0529.

MAY 18: Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) sponsors a TREE TOUR along the Embarcadero, with DPW landscape architect Martha Ketterer. Meet at the fountain at Justin Herman Plaza. Noon. Call Esta at FUF, 561-6890, ext. 108.

MAY 18: The Department of Building Inspection offers a discussion, "Learning the HISTORY of Your Building," in its brown bag lunch series. Noon-1:30 pm. 1660 Mission St., Room 2001.

MAY 18: Dr. Neil Birnbaum tells "Everything You Ever Wanted to Ask About ARTHRITIS." 12:30-2:30 pm. California Pacific Medical Center, 3700 California St., cafeteria rooms A, B & C. 1-800-464-6240.

MAY 18: A public meeting to discuss a proposed bond issue for RENOVATIONS to the Noe Valley Library and other branch libraries will be held from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th St. For info, call 695-5095.

MAY 19: JEFFERY DEAVER brings back quadriplegic detective Lincoln Rhyme in *The Empty Chair*. 4-5 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

MAY 19 & 20: The ROVA Saxophone Quartet performs "Rovate III: An Improviser's Festival." 8:30 pm. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. 979-4500.

MAY 19-21: "Mud, Mind, and Magpie," a DANCE and theater concert by "local babes and broads," begins at 8 pm. Dancers' Group Studio Theater, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

MAY 19-21, 27 & 28: The Teen Musical Theater performs Sondheim's *COMPANY*. 8 pm, except May 21; 3 pm matinees May 21 and 28. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9523.

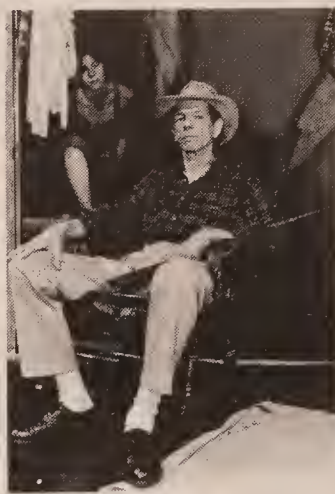
MAY 20: BUG DAY at the Randall Museum features education and activities, plus a reading of "La Mariposa" at the 11:30 am story hour. 11 am-3 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

MAY 20: PARENTS for Public Schools, a national organization of families working for school reform, meets at James Lick School. 10 am-12:30 pm. 1220 Noe St. To register, call 642-6260.

MAY 20: Over 900 San Francisco students perform in EVENT 2000, a free musical theater science fiction fantasy. 12:30 pm. Stern Grove, 19th Ave. at Sloat. 510-437-9881.

MAY 20: Dr. Victoria Hamman and Beyond the Sea sponsor a Noe Valley ALTERNATIVE HEALTH FAIR, featuring aromatherapy, acupuncture, naturopathic and Chinese medicines, yoga, and massage therapy. 1-4 pm. 1303 Castro St. 285-4614.

MAY 20: The NOE VENABLE TRIO and Faun Fables perform at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.



John Robb stars in *Hidden Parts*, presented by the Encore Theatre Company May 11 to June 11 at the Thick House on 18th Street. Photo by Steve Mitchell.

MAY 20: The ALVARADO Arts Program unveils a new ceramic tile mural created by its students with the help of artist-in-residence Paul Lanier and the Ruth Asawa Fund. 2 pm. Alvarado School, 625 Douglass St. 695-5695.

MAY 21: The Spring CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL at Sunnyside Park features activities, entertainment, and a barbecue lunch, to benefit the Miraloma Cooperative Nursery School. 11 am-4 pm. Foerster at Melrose Ave. 585-6789.

MAY 21: The School of the Arts Motion Picture and VIDEO Department showcases current work in "The Best of the Best," starting at 11 am at the Roxie Cinema. 3117 16th St. 431-3611.

MAY 21: S.F. Symphony pianist ROBIN SUTHERLAND performs Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. 4 pm. Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC Series. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9444.

MAY 21: Beth Wilmurt directs the SPRING CONCERT, featuring popular and folk songs, at Community Music Center. 4 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

MAY 23: Guided meditations and discussion address the topic, "Can You Be Touched by an ANGEL?" 7 to 9 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

MAY 25: FREDERICA VON STADE and pianist and composer Jake Heggie perform in Community Music Center's "Concerts with Conversation" series. 5:30 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

MAY 25: This month's UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS meeting will focus on "monster" building projects, dogs at Upper Noe, and the city budget. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 285-0473.

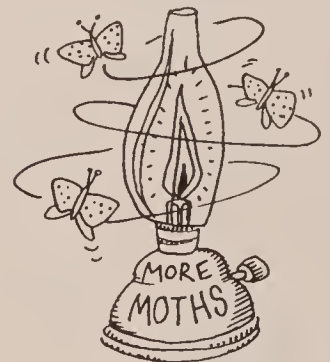
MAY 27: Margaret Lucke leads a class in MYSTERY WRITING, "Follow the Clues." 10 am-4 pm. The Writing Salon; call 642-9793 to register, or email www.writingsalons.com.

June Spoon Croon Moon Soon

The deadline looms for the June issue of the *Noe Valley Voice*, arriving in downtown Noe Valley on Friday, June 2. Please send in your calendar items by **May 15**.

You can mail them to Calendar, *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email zabarska@aol.com.

For last-minute changes or corrections, call Karol at 285-6347.



MAY 28: CARNAVAL San Francisco features a parade on Mission and festival on Harrison St. between 16th and 23rd. 10 am-7 pm. 826-1401.

MAY 28: Create your own SAND MANDALA at a workshop from 10 am to 1 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

JUNE 3: BOX SET DUO performs an acoustic concert at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

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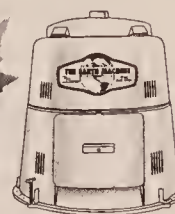
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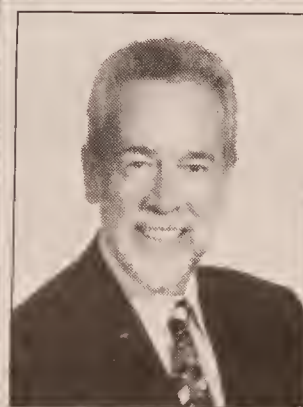
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STORE TREK

By Stephanie Rapp

Store Trek is a regular feature of the *Voice* profiling new shops and businesses in the neighborhood. This month's Store Trek introduces two new clothing stores, each with its own distinctive style. One specializes in comfortable and practical athletic wear for women, including jogging suits and running shoes. The other offers a wild, eclectic assortment of new and vintage fashions. Go take a look.

Getups

4028B 24th Street between Noe and Castro

643-8877

www.getupssf@aol.com

You know from the moment you enter Getups that you're not in a chain store. The shop has unique written all over it, from the burnt-orange floor to the leopard-print armchairs to the racy mixture of vintage, new, and used clothing.

Lounge music adds to the feeling of fun that owner Miles Barry is trying to infuse into the shopping experience. (The music is a real departure from the New Age sounds that emanated from the storefront in the '80s, when it was filled by the gift store Star Magic.)

Open since early April, Getups is Barry's first store, although he's been in the retail business all his life. He brings his experience as a hair stylist and window dresser to the shop. The current window display is an homage to Mary and Rhoda of 1970s TV fame.

The shop fits a need in the neighborhood, according to Barry, who says he loves "Noe Valley for its diversity—gay, straight, families, singles."

Getups carries mostly vintage and used women's clothing, though 15 percent of the merchandise is new. "I carry urban funky and contemporary clothes," Barry says.

Most of the items in the store are priced at under \$50, including the new merchandise. You can find hip summer dresses for well under \$40. The most expensive item in April was a vintage faux fur coat for \$150.

In addition to being the owner, Barry is also the buyer, stock boy, cashier, window dresser, and salesperson. He restocks the inventory every week, buying from sources he's cultivated over the years. "It's a labor of love," he says.

And the name? It comes from a Maya Angelou poem. When she was young and poor, Angelou would go to the thrift stores and put outfits together. In the South, this kind of piecing together of clothes and accessories is called creating a get-up. "I read that poem one night and I knew that was it," Barry says.

The store is dog- and stroller-friendly, with two dressing rooms and lots of floor space. To personalize the shopping, Barry plans to keep a book of customers' preferences, sizes, and other details.

Barry may expand the store's hours in the future, but for now Getups is open from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Sunday.

See Jane Run

3870 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez

401-8338

www.seejanerunsports.com

Owner Lori Shannon created this all-women's athletic gear store with a vision in mind. As a runner, biker, and mara-



Miles Barry's inspirations range from Maya Angelou to Mary Tyler Moore. There's a bit of both at Getups, where Barry sells new and used women's clothes in a unique retail environment.

thoner, Shannon recognizes the joy and personal strength that women can achieve through athletics.

"My goal is to empower women through sports or fitness. I would go to sporting goods stores and ask myself, Why do women only have three shoes to choose from and men have fifty?"

To level the playing field, Shannon opened See Jane Run in April in the recently vacated storefront next to Martha & Bros. Coffee on 24th Street. Although she lives in the Mission, Shannon loves Noe Valley and figured the neighborhood could use a boost in the fitness department.

Ultimately, See Jane Run will offer 30 different styles of footwear. Shannon now stocks quality brands such as Asics, Saucony, Adidas, Moving Comfort, and Perlazuma. Shoes range from \$65 to \$119, with the popular Saucony Grid Omni selling for \$79.99.

Shannon also offers women's athletic clothes — shorts, sweats, jackets, swimsuits (and goggles) — in all shapes and sizes. She carries sizes up to extra-large, and will add plus sizes in the future. T-shirts start at around \$25.

The shop's primary aim is to supply gear for runners, cyclers, and general fitness enthusiasts, but Shannon hopes to add soccer and outdoor fitness apparel and accessories soon.

More than a clothes and shoes outlet, See Jane Run will also act as a resource center. Shannon plans to start a See Jane Run running group and a tri-club (tri-athletic) for the area. "A lot of women are intimidated by sports. I want to get them active and help them make the right choices," she says.

Store manager Lisa Raphael, who brings 18 years of experience as a per-



Lori Shannon's See Jane Run offers a cornucopia of athletic shoes, clothing, and accessories for women of all sizes, ages, and fitness levels.

Photos by Charles Kennard

sonal trainer to the job, will be on hand to help the sports neophyte. "If you want something that we don't carry, just ask us and we'll try to get it for you," she says.

Current hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Monday hours may be added later.

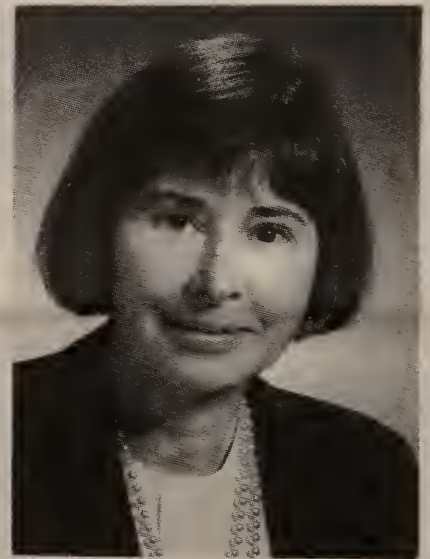
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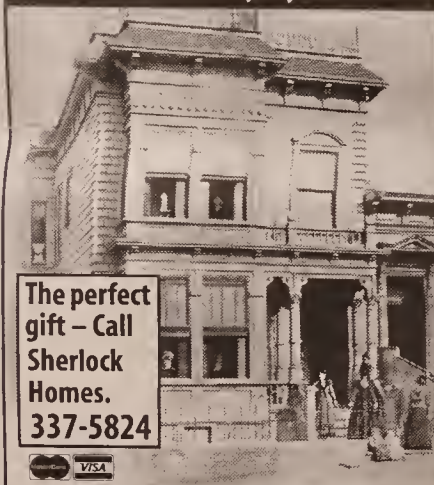
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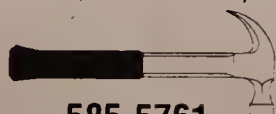
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Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

Signs of Life

Since becoming an octogenarian in 1999, I admit I've begun to act my age—moving slower, sleeping more hours each night, and accomplishing much less during the day. But over the past two months, I seem to have miraculously picked up speed again.

In February, I had a sudden burst of energy directed almost exclusively at household chores! Before, I'd been able to neglect or overlook such drudgery completely.

The kitchen was my first target. I found myself scrubbing the floor and cleaning the stove, de-gunking the burners every few days, even scouring the bottoms of pots and pans. I knew things were getting out of hand when I painted the bathroom and began sorting through old clothes, shoes, and shopping bags in our closets. The day I found myself giving the not-half-bad kitchen curtains a critical appraisal, I started entertaining the notion that Martha Stewart had finally taken possession of my normally tranquil soul.

My man Leo couldn't help but notice the flurry of activity, and in March he asked—in jest, of course—if I was pregnant. He remembered the strange behavior that had preceded the birth of each of our three sons. My tidiness at that time was caused by the nesting instinct, but now, during these august years, why was I occupied in such pointless pursuits?

Last month I came across a plausible explanation. Minerva, who writes the Sunday horoscope column for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, clarified how my sign, Aquarius, the perennial gadabout, could have a sudden need to stay home and clean house like crazy. She suggested that three rather pushy planets—Jupiter, Mars, and Saturn—had been hanging out in my house and prodding me to shape up. I guess that's as good a reason as any.

Over the past decade, Leo and I both could have used more frequent visits from Jupiter and Saturn. For several years, the facade of our house on 21st Street has been in dire need of a new paint job. It was 30 years ago when our 19-year-old son Jan scaled a 30-foot extension ladder to cover the surface with brown paint. Jan is still a great fixer-upper, but he doesn't live in the area anymore, so last fall we began thumbing through the ads in the *Noe Valley Voice*. There we found an attractive advertisement for Robert's Quality Painting. It stated that no job was too small. We liked the sound of that.

In February, Robert started sanding and puttying, and then on days when it wasn't raining, dabbing on a fresh coat of brown paint over our poor weathered shingles. At the end of the job, our house looked like new!

In fact, the facade looked so fine, the wooden steps leading up to it seemed shabby by contrast. Fortunately, I was entering my Jupiter phase. So I painted the steps, which in turn made the plant ledge look bad. It was a week before things got up to snuff.

While doing the front steps, I could not bring myself to paint over a charming chalk drawing of a snail that our son Eric had done when he was a little kid.



At Leo's suggestion, I painted around it. We are delighted we can continue to observe our talented son's early work. (He grew up to become a graphic artist and printer.)

One day we were admiring the shiny new facade when we noticed a fresh raccoon print on the ground next to the narrow space between our house and the neighbor's house down the hill. So the little masked beggars are still around, we thought.

We used to hear them romping on the roof at night, but for over a year we'd seen no sign of them. The footprint reminded me of a strange encounter I'd had about five years ago. One evening, while straightening up after dinner, I heard a thumping coming from the wall on the dining-room side of the house. The noise sounded like the scratching sound our dog Fred made when he sought relief from a flea or two. However, Fred was no longer with us.

When I went outside to investigate and peered into the crack between the two houses—this space is barely big enough for a cat to squeeze through—I was surprised to see a dark shadowy mass with two glowing eyes suspended 15 feet above the ground! How could the raccoon remain floating in midair?

It turned out that during the last roofing operation, a large piece of metal had slipped down and lodged between the houses, providing a secure daytime sleeping bunk for our neighborhood's more clever nocturnal creatures.

After we saw the new evidence of raccoons, Leo decided to join in my tidying-up frenzy and clean out the debris that had collected around the outside of the house. In all, he removed three barrels of aged cedar shingles, broken bits of asphalt, and an unclaimed pair of nylon pantyhose. (Perhaps one of our house guests dropped it from a window.) Then he got a pole and poked out the two-by-three-foot dented piece of metal that had served as the raccoons' posturepedic mattress. Please forgive us, furry ones!

Getting back to horoscopes... A few years ago we were at a dinner party and one of the guests remarked that she was having trouble with a person she worked with, adding that she always had difficulty with people born under the sign of Libra. Thoughtlessly, I volunteered that my mother-in-law was a Libra, to which she blurted out, "See!" Before I could say a word in defense of my admirable mother-in-law, our host, who was a noted physicist, interrupted with, "You don't believe in that stuff, do you?"

Actually, it was my mother-in-law who first introduced me to the Zodiac. Since she knew the exact moment of her two sons' births, she had asked a professional astrologer to chart their future. He told her that her youngest son, Richard, would achieve success early in life. This turned out to be true: Richard

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Holub was in his 20s when he was decorated with a Legion of Merit medal while serving in the Air Force during World War II.

The seer then predicted that her other son (my man Leo) would find success later in life. Leo has always been a respected and dedicated worker, but recognition did arrive late in his career, and we're happy his mother lived long enough to savor it.

It seems to me mankind has forgotten how vital astrology has been to us. According to the encyclopedia, the ancient stargazers studied the heavenly bodies and divided them into 12 divisions that gave us our present year. Three thousand years ago in Babylonia, astrology was consulted for large-scale events such as wars, floods, and eclipses. In the 4th century B.C., the Greeks worked out individual destinies based on the moment of birth. Soon, the Romans and Arabs became the chief exponents of astrology and astronomy. During the 15th and 16th centuries, astrology was one of the foremost sciences taught in European universities.

In the 18th century, astrology and medicine were closely linked. Each sign was associated with a part of the body, so birth signs indicated weaknesses the patient was subject to. My sign, Aquarius, rules the circulation, and Aquarians are said to suffer from varicose veins (I've got 'em), as well as hardening of the arteries (not yet, but how can I tell?).

Leo is a Sagittarius, with Aquarius rising, according to his mother. (Astrologers consider the rising sign to be as important an influence as the sun sign.) That could explain why he too has recently become work-driven.

Do I believe in all that stuff? Well, only when it seems helpful. Still, I would really like to know how much longer these pesky planets are going to be staying in my house! □



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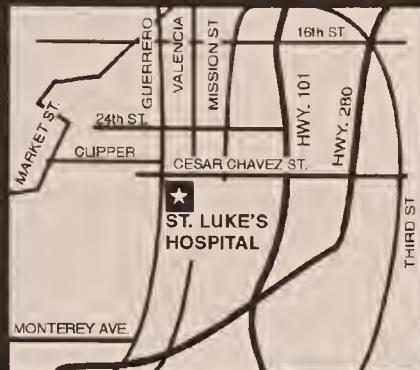
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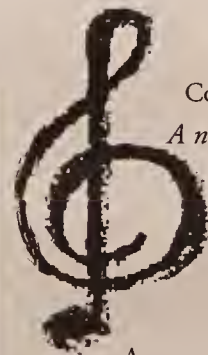
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ARE WE THERE YET?

Family Adventures Close to Home

Bleacher Bums Baseball at Pacific Bell Park

By Janis Cooke Newman

"Which ones are the Giants, and which are the Milwaukee Hebrews?" asks my 5-year-old son, Alex.

"The Giants are the ones in the shiny pants," I tell him.

In front of us, three guys who have dyed their hair orange are waving frantically, trying to get the stadium cameraman to notice them. Behind us, a man in a Giants T-shirt is talking on a cell phone. "I'm just below the pinkie of the giant glove," he tells the person on the other end.

"And now please rise for the very first performance of the national anthem in Pacific Bell Park," says the female announcer's voice. We rise and stand at attention while a man in a tuxedo plays the *Star-Spangled Banner* on a violin.

We're at the first game in Pac Bell Park: the San Francisco Giants versus the Milwaukee Brewers. It's an historic occasion, especially for longtime Giants fans. On the way in, we spotted a grandfather, father, and son in Giants hats

The Stats

Tickets: Most games at Pac Bell Park are sold out. However, 500 bleacher seats will be sold two hours prior to every game. Here's how it works (don't ask me, I didn't make the rules): Four hours prior to the game, Giants Security will distribute 500 wristbands to fans in line at the King Street ticket window closest to Willie Mays Plaza. An hour later, a police officer will draw a random number between 1 and 500. The person with the numbered wristband that matches the lottery number will become the first person invited to purchase up to four day-of-game tickets. The next ticket buyer will have the number that comes next sequentially, and so on. Two hours before the game, the ticket windows will open, and the sale of the bleacher seats and Standing Room Only tickets will begin. (Yes, there is paid standing room within the stadium.) But now that all the excitement has died down, I'd be willing to bet that you can show up one or two hours before a game and still get seats. Also, you're likely to find people scalping other tickets outside the stadium.

Seeing the Game for Free: You can also stand outside the ballpark and watch the game through the portholes on the bay side. While there's no official policy yet, you may not be allowed to stand in one spot for the whole game.

Getting There: The whole point of putting Pac Bell Park in the city was so that people could walk, bike, or take public transportation. We took the F-Market line to Third Street and walked south to the park. On game days you can take the N, K, or M lines to Second and King, adjacent to the park. There will also be a special ballpark shuttle from the Montgomery Street BART Station. Call 817-1717 for a schedule.

For More Information: Visit the Giants' home page at www.sfgiants.com or call 415-972-2000. —J.C.N.



Say Hey! Pacific Bell Park features plenty of family-friendly amenities, from changing tables in the men's rooms to a play area behind the left-field bleachers. And baseball purists will appreciate the real grass, the Polish dogs, and the brutal brick wall in right field that turns long singles into lung-busting triples...and don't forget the terrific statue of Willie Mays out front.

Photo by Ken Newman

climbing the statue of Willie Mays to have their picture taken. Beside them, a chubby man was waving around the plastic sleeve he'd brought along to preserve his ticket. "I've got every opening day," he told us, "and the earthquake game."

We bought our tickets at a fundraiser for Alex's preschool, where we paid considerably more than their \$10 face value. They're bleacher seats, but what the heck, at least we're at the game.

Out on the field, Barry Bonds comes up to bat. Our bleachermates stand and chant, "Water! Water!" encouraging Bonds to become the first player to terrorize the fish in San Francisco Bay. In the water beyond the right-field wall, people in yachts and little dinghies float around in circles, hoping to retrieve any splash hits.

Bonds fails to stun any sea life (on this night anyway—the next afternoon he gave the boaters a thrill), and Alex, along with a few of the grownups, starts to get restless. I take him to see the slides inside the giant Coke bottle.

Okay, okay, so the enormous Coke bottle is an in-your-face product endorsement. But it looks good lit up at night, and the slides are very cool. They are long silver tubes: two tall, straight ones called Guzzlers, and two curvy ones aptly named Twisters. Alex and I get at the back of a line made up mostly of adults.

"The Guzzlers are closed," a boy in a knit Raiders cap informs us.

"How come?" I ask.

"A kid threw up Coke in them," he says. It seems appropriate.

Alex and I try both of the Twisters twice, flying through the metal tubes like caffeinated soft drinks down a colossal robot's throat. Judging from the relative quiet in the stands, we haven't missed any actual baseball, so we head out to see what other diversions we can find.

The whole area behind the bleachers turns out to be a good place to take restless kids. Near the slides is a miniature replica of Pac Bell Park, with a small-scale baseball diamond and screaming fans painted into the stands. A toddler dashes around behind the bases like a disoriented outfielder.

On the other side of the Coke bottle, we find an astroturfed area that ends at a high padded wall. Small boys take turns flinging themselves against the wall, catching imaginary fly balls.

"I'm hungry," Alex says. Which is no problem, since ballparks carry plenty of kid food: hot dogs, popcorn, Cracker Jacks, cotton candy. We eat our hot dogs at a cafe table on the cement patio behind the bleachers. From here we've got a view of palm trees, the masts of the sailboats in the marina, and the strings of lights on the Bay Bridge.

This is the thing about Pacific Bell Park. Like the city it's built in, it's loaded with fabulous views. And the bricked walls and arched entryways give it an old-fashioned, small-town-America, field-of-dreams-if-you-build-it-they-will-come feel.

Back in the bleachers, it's the Giants' turn at bat.

"Go, whatever your name is!" Alex shouts at Armando Rios.

The lighted scoreboard behind us is acting up, and Felipe Crespo appears to be batting second, third, and sixth.

"It's the Amazing Crespo!" a guy behind us shouts when Felipe comes up to the plate.

"What the hell is he gonna do if he gets on base?" asks the guy's friend.

I'm thinking that the bleachers are pretty great after all. They're cheap, close to the action without being in the path of any foul balls, and within spitting distance of the Coca-Cola slides. They might even be the best seats for kids, as long as you don't mind having your child exposed to expressions like, "Rueter, you suck!"

Next to us, a man in a Giants' uniform shirt is beaming like a 5-year-old at a birthday party. "This is the coolest ballpark I've ever been to!" he says.

"Go, Crespo!" I shout. □

Are We There Yet? is a Voice feature about places to go and things to do with your kids. If there's an activity or outing you'd like to see explored, please email Janis Cooke Newman at j-newman@pacbell.net or write the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

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MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

Sebastian Paul Harper

Anthony and Anke Harper decided on a home birth for their second child, Sebastian Paul Harper, and baby could not have been more cooperative.

Sebastian arrived promptly on his due date, Dec. 14, 1999. "That's punctual!" says his proud mom.

"The timing was perfect, actually," adds Anke. "The hard labor started when Christopher [the Harpers' 3-year-old son] walked across the street to day care." However, midwife Angelika Nugent and her assistant, Jana Silverman, came close to missing the splashdown.

"It was fast," says Anke. "Angelika was busy that morning. She had an unexpected delivery and two prenatal visits. When I called her at 7:30 because I had contractions, she said, 'Don't push. I'll be there around 1:00.' By the time Christopher left the house at 9:00, I was getting into serious business."

Three hours later, Anke's intuition told her to wait no longer. Anthony phoned the midwife asking her to come ASAP. "I thought I was going to have to start boiling water," he quips.

Angelika arrived on the scene a mere 20 minutes before the big moment.

"Basically she came in the room and checked me out and said, 'Push! Push the baby out!'" Anke relates. "I thought she was joking!" Sebastian arrived at 12:42 p.m., weighing a hearty 9 pounds, 12 ounces. Although the Harpers had a contingency plan for delivery at UCSF, everything went off without a hitch.

A veteran of the home birthing process, Anke delivered her first child, son Christopher, in a similar setting — in a birthing home in Germany, attended by a midwife. "You know there is a risk involved," says Anke. "But if everything is fine and you think it will be a normal delivery, why not just have the baby at home?"

"Here when I tell people I had a home birth, they look at me kind of puzzled like, 'Is she from the Middle Ages—or alternative or crazy?'" she laughs.

Friends had volunteered to look after Christopher during Sebastian's birth, but that proved unnecessary. "He actually knew that morning," Anke says. "We told him, 'When you come home from day care, your little brother will be here.' And sure enough, Christopher came in at 5:30, and I was lying in bed with this little guy."

Christopher handled the event like a pro. After greeting his new sibling, "he took off again to a neighbor's to play with a friend," Anke says.

The midwife was made to order, too. "Finding Angelika was kind of a coincidence because we visited another midwife first," says Anke. "She said, 'Oh, you're German—I have a German friend I work with, and she delivers babies as well.'" The Harpers have struck up acquaintances with several families with German roots. "We seem to know quite a few other Germans with little babies, and we hook up with each other on the weekends," Anke says.

Anke is 35 and works as a software engineer. Anthony, 38, is currently the "stay-at-home dad." The couple met in 1985 at a youth hostel in the Alps region of southern Germany. "I was in graduate school at New York University," says Anthony. "I grew up in Idaho, and it was cheaper to fly to Europe than to fly back to Idaho during summer break. Also, Europe sounded a little more exotic."



"He did it!" "No, he did it!" One can almost hear the breakfast banter a few years down the road between December '99 arrival Sebastian Harper and older brother Christopher. Looks like mom Anke and dad Anthony already have their hands full. Photo by Pamela Gerard

The two hit it off right away and maintained a four-year, long-distance relationship before tying the knot in 1989. After living in Washington, D.C., and Germany, the Harpers moved to San Francisco in 1998 and bought their home on 23rd Street the same year.

Sebastian has green-brown eyes like his dad. He was born with a full head of dark hair, which has "all disappeared," says his mom. "Now it's much lighter but still on the brown side." His middle name, Paul, is after his great-grandfather on Anke's side, Paul Hollstein.

At 3 months, "Sebastian is starting to get some personality," says Anthony. "He's a pretty easy, content little guy. He loves to be held, and he knows exactly when he's been left alone in the room."

"He's starting to be more alert," Anke says. "The first six weeks he slept a lot. Now he likes to go for walks, he likes to be with Christopher, and he likes people. He's learning to grab—he's fascinated with his fingers. This morning he even put the pacifier back in his mouth."

Like most babies his age, Sebastian is enchanted with moving objects. And, says Dad, "he's got a sneaky little smile. If you watch it, it kind of grows."

Sebastian is also shaping up to be a strong little guy, and he can stand with some assistance. "When he's lying on the floor, he's very active with his hands and feet, so you can tell it won't be long before he turns over," says Mom.

Like his older brother, he has dual citizenship and has applied for his U.S. passport. Both boys are being raised bilingual.

"We do the books in German," says Anke. "If I read an English book, I basically read in German, I translate, so he learns the terms. If we watch an English video, I'll comment on things in German."

Christopher has made a smooth transition into his new role as big brother, and Sebastian is eager to follow his lead. "He likes to watch his brother, I can really tell that," Anke says. "Little guys like little guys, that's obvious. Christopher likes being the older brother because we stress that he can already do things like go to the potty and eat and talk, and that gives him a big boost."

While Christopher attends school on weekday mornings, Sebastian joins Dad for a stroll. "We go on walks over to Kite Hill," says Anthony. "We like to walk around Noe Valley, the Castro, and Diamonds Heights, and then back along 24th Street. I think everybody with kids ends up on 24th Street."

Sebastian's first travel experience was a road trip to Las Vegas in December, and

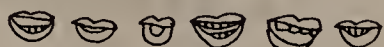
he recently took his first flight to visit relatives in Idaho.

"What's fun with the second baby is that you've forgotten how they develop, and you say, 'Oh! This is that phase again.' You notice more so how fast they develop," says Anke.

"You feel like it's a real family," Anthony adds. "I mean, one child is great, but somehow with two it's even better. It's more than twice as good. It really is." □



More Mouths to Feed wants to show off your newest family member. If you have welcomed a new baby into the house, or adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email us at jaxvoice@aol.com. We'd also appreciate a phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. □



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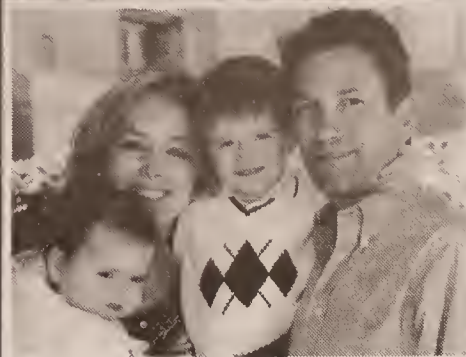
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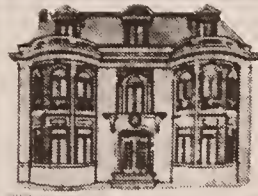
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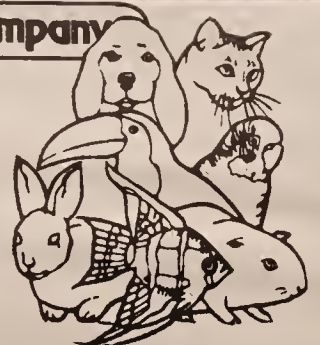
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Although memories of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake are fading, it still behooves us to make sure we're ready for the next Big One. Here are some suggestions:

☞ **Secure your water heater.** The greatest risk in a quake is from fire, and the greatest domestic fire risk is a gas water heater falling over and sparking a conflagration. If you haven't strapped yours to the nearest wall, do it today.

☞ **Stabilize your foundation.** You or your contractor should make liberal use of plywood, bolts, and straps to prevent your walls from hopping around or becoming parallelograms during the next quake.

☞ **Bolt furniture.** Bookshelves, dressers, and other tall objects can topple during a quake. Bolt them securely to a wall.

☞ **Secure cabinet doors.** Tumbling dishes and glasses create piles of dangerous shards. Install childproof latches.

☞ **Check your fire extinguisher.** Buy one of the multipurpose variety, keep it accessible, know how to use it, and check it yearly to make sure it's in good shape.

☞ **Organize your neighbors.** Plan ahead: Will someone with a disability need help? Do any doctors or nurses live on your block?

☞ **Keep a stocked first-aid kit.** And, if you have time, take a CPR class.

☞ **Stash a wrench.** Keep it near your main gas valve, and know how to shut off both your gas and water, but do so only if your house has sustained major damage or if you smell gas.

☞ **Maintain flashlights and batteries.** It's a good idea to keep flashlights in several locations (including your car).

Did you just feel a QUAKE?

☞ **Store water, food, and medicine.** Keep three gallons for each person, plus disinfectant tablets or bleach in case your supply runs out. Store plenty of nonperishable food (one week's worth per person) and a can opener, utensils, paper plates, etc.

☞ **Remember your pets.** Keep an extra supply of pet food, water, and medicines. A leash for the dog and a cardboard carrier for the cat are also good ideas.

☞ **Remember your kids.** Babies need diapers, and older kids will appreciate toys, games, books, and so forth.

☞ **Keep a portable radio and batteries.** You'll want the latest in disaster news, and it may be your only entertainment for a while.

☞ **Get a cell phone.** Consider getting one of those for-emergencies-only varieties for the glove box in your car.

☞ **Buy a small barbeque or camp stove.** Remember to include some charcoal or gas, plus matches and lighter fluid. However, don't use the stove indoors.

☞ **Buy duct tape and heavy work gloves.** You may need these to tape up windows and pick up the pieces.

☞ **Store extra clothes, blankets, and sneakers.** Actually, the best place for the sneakers is beside your bed, so you can find them in the dark before you step on any broken glass or pottery.

☞ **Keep some cash handy.** An assortment of bills and a roll of quarters will come in handy if service is interrupted to ATMs or credit-card scanners.

For more earthquake preparedness tips and tricks, check out pages B4-B6 in the San Francisco phone book (white pages), or try the American Red Cross' Bay Area web site, sfbay.org.

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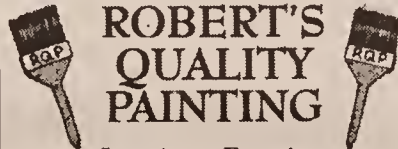
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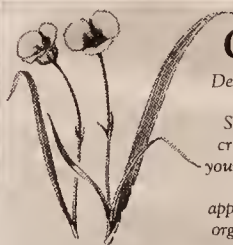
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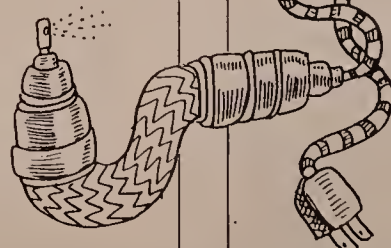
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BOOKS *in our* BRANCH

This month's new books list, provided by librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small, features love, food, Nazis, and migraine headache cures for adults. For children, there's an examination of the five kinds of dragons. To check out a book's availability, call 695-5095, or visit the Noe Valley—Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro. In addition to books, the branch offers magazines, CDs, Internet access, and an index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, 10 to 6.

Adult Fiction

◆ In *The Fig Eater* by Judy Shields, the wife of a detective in turn-of-the-century Vienna becomes obsessed with the murder of a respectable young woman.

◆ In Christopher Reich's *The Runner*, a thriller set in post World War II Germany, an American lawyer seeks to find the Nazi responsible for his brother's death.

◆ In *A Slow Burning* by Stanley Pottinger, a street-smart detective and a brilliant brain surgeon must overcome their rivalry in order to save the woman they both love.

◆ Narrated in part by her Jewish maternal ancestors, *The Wholeness of a Broken Heart*, by Katie Singer, traces an American woman's attempt to understand her family's history.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ *Eating Well for Optimum Health* by Andrew Weil, M.D., provides 85 recipes along with dietary advice to combat many common ailments.

◆ Betty Fussell's *My Kitchen Wars* is both a memoir and a love story told through the medium of food.

◆ *The Nazi Officer's Wife*, by Edith Hahn Beer and Susan Dworkin, describes how one Jewish woman survived the Holocaust by marrying a Nazi.

◆ *The Women's Migraine Survival Guide*, by Christina Peterson, M.D., contains up-to-date information on the causes of migraines and treatments for quick relief.

Annotations by Roberta Greifer
Head Librarian, Noe Valley Branch

Films for Kids

◆ The library shows *films*, for children ages 3 to 5, on Tuesday, May 16, at 10 and 11 a.m.

Preschool Story Time

◆ Kids 3 to 5 are invited to the library's *preschool story time*, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 23, and 30.

Infant and Toddler Lapsits

◆ You and your little ones can sing lullabies and make fingerplays at the *lapsits*, Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 7 p.m.

A Special Program by Chris Molla

◆ Chris Molla will present musical entertainment for children of all ages and their families on Saturday, May 13, at 10:30 a.m.

Children's Fiction

◆ The main character is lively, disruptive, mischievous, messy — and somehow still quite lovable in *David Goes to School* by David Shannon. *Ages 3 to 5.*

◆ High in the Sierra Nevadas, two siblings argue a bit and observe animal tracks in *Stella and Roy Go Camping*, written and illustrated by Ashley Wolff. *Ages 3 to 6.*

◆ Sometimes a creative person can "make something out of nothing," as the main character does in this year's Caldecott Medal winner, *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*, written and illustrated by Simms Taback. *Ages 4 to 7.*

◆ With *Sports! Sports! Sports!: A Poetry Collection*, Lee Bennett Hopkins has provided an action-packed book that fairly new readers can enjoy. *Ages 6 to 8.*

◆ Through an amazing and very fortunate coincidence, Nina finally regains her rightful place with Nadia, Vanda, Varka, Olga, and Anna in *The Littlest Matryoshka* by Corrine Demas Bliss, illustrated by Kathryn Brown. *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ Ellie has wanted a puppy for years and feels she'll never warm up to her great-aunt's "fully-grown mutt," Preston, in *Not My Dog* by Colby F. Rodowsky. *Ages 7 to 9.*

◆ In *Sword of the Samurai: Adventure Stories from Japan*, Eric A. Kimmel gives us a varied anthology of tales about a group of warriors as they existed within the context of Japanese culture. *Ages 8 to 11.*



Children's Nonfiction

◆ The five groups into which dragons are classified by dracontologists — serpent dragons, semi-dragons, classical dragons, sky dragons, and neo-dragons — are described and colorfully illustrated in *Behold — The Dragons!* by Gail Gibbons. *Ages 5 to 8.*

Annotations by Carol Small
Children's Librarian, Noe Valley Branch

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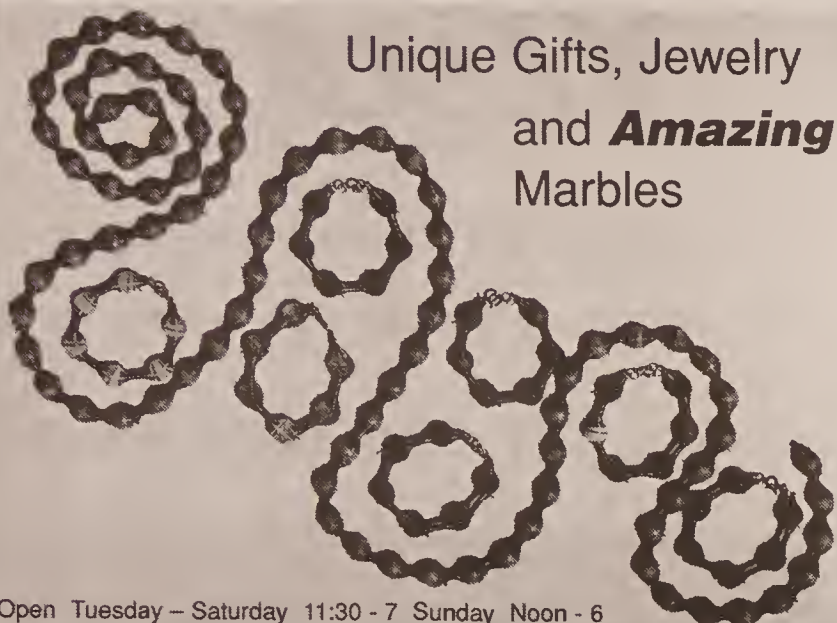
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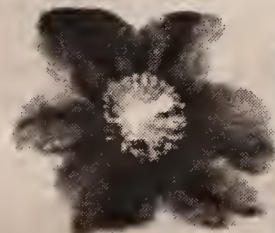


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Mailing Address: Call Greg Clark for info.
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230;
capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association

Contact: Ed White, 774-3237
Mailing Address: First Church of God, 3728 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Last Thursday of month, First Church of God, 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Dennis Downing, 441-9243; Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Call for summer holiday schedule.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July, August, and December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Glen Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Harry Stern, 821-1086, or harrystern@aol.com
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco

Contact: Thalia DeWolf, 641-8366
Mailing Address: 47 Costa St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, Bernal Heights Library, Cortland & Moultrie, 10:15 a.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Katherine Pietrycha, president: Katherine.Pietrycha@wcom.com
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Executive board meets first Tuesday of month; general meetings quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Courts Coalition

Contact: Dr. Tom Mills, secretary.
Voicemail: 675-0110; nichapin@aol.com.
Mailing Address: Noe Courts Coalition, P.O. Box 460520, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: Irregular. Call for information.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, 7 p.m. Call for location.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association

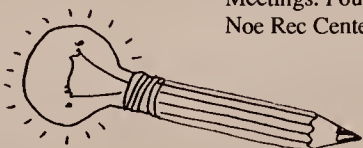
Contact: Debra Niemann, 641-4934, or Krista Keegan, 550-9050
Mailing Address: 4171 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m. Call to confirm.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Fourth Thursday of month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.



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Child Care. Wanted: one newborn to love. I am a mature, experienced woman with excellent local references. Non-smoker, own car. 587-6547.

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Hot Flash! Midlife Women's Groups in Noe Valley. Meet with women your age, supporting each other through the struggles, challenges, and joys of midlife. We are trailblazers and elders-in-training, redefining what aging means to us. Arlene Dumas, L.C.S.W. 415-641-4553.



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Petsitting with TLC. Enjoy happier vacations when your pets and home are cherished by mature, reliable, fastidious Joanne. Overnights welcome. Reasonable. 510-834-1027.

Welcome to Our Support Group. Learn and utilize various methods of staying healthy: weight training, flexibility, aerobics, weight management, diet. 415-668-8310.

Noe Valley SWM, B.A., M.A., J.D., 48 years (fit, uncorrected vision, perfect teeth), seeks solvent, sexually interesting woman of 30-plus years for companion and possible procreation. Phone 282-2797.

Word Processing: Manuscripts, theses, dissertations, tape transcription, editing. Joanne, 431-0603.

Violin Lessons. All ages, all levels and Suzuki. Instructor has Bachelor and Master of Music degrees, and is a San Jose Symphony member. Easy parking, J-train. 821-2917.

Counseling and Hypnotherapy for anxiety and stress. Better balance, relationship issues. Author of *Wise Speaking: Writing as Spiritual Practice*, and *A Stone in My Hand: Lessons from the Wise Earth*, published by Charles E. Tuttle publishers. Janell Moon, C.H.T. 415-824-2490. Noe Valley.

Get Organized Now! Call Susan Block, Life Management Consultant. "Trying" to get organized in your home or office? I can help. Call for a free consultation. 282-0218.

Small Office for Rent. Full or part-time, for therapist, bodyworker, or similar professional. Quiet Noe Valley location. Available May 1. 415-239-1315 or 415-647-1131.



Valley Cleaning Services. We do residential and commercial, construction cleanup, moving in or out, window and carpet cleaning, floor stripping, sealing and waxing, and pressure washing. We are specialists in driveways and roofs. Weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly. 20 percent off first visit. Call Leo Lima, 415-255-9211.

Proofreading/Copyediting by professional with 15 years of experience. Manuscripts, brochures, flyers, newsletters, academic papers, etc. Reasonable rates. Call My Editor at 415-492-1131.

Part-Time Work Available caring for charming older woman with active mind and good disposition, in Noe Valley. Light meal preparation, help with dressing, errands, and shopping, companionship. Flexible hours, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, two hours each, and a couple of weekdays, two or three hours each. Prefer upbeat, kind, energetic, English-speaking person. Great for student or retiree, or someone with flexible hours. Will pay \$10 per hour. Start immediately; must have references. Call Gigi, 415-648-1359.

Home and Office Cleaning. Excellent references. Thorough, reliable, professional, and reasonably priced. Offering service seven days a week. For more details, call Maria Jose, 510-758-0271.

Local Clinical Studies Needs Participants. Registration is free. Anti-aging, pain, sleep, metabolism and weight loss, stress, and more. You may receive two weeks (free) of nutritional products for each study you are in. Send a large self-addressed stamped envelope with a \$2 handling fee for each study you wish to participate in to 1019 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94114. (PDI Clinical Study).

Housecleaner/Housekeeper. Good job. Reliable, responsible, and experienced. Speak English. Own car and excellent references. Call Leisa, 415-643-0894.

Dog Joy. Leave your dog with Bob while you're away, and he'll have a vacation, too. Day care, home visits, daily walks. \$15 to \$20 per day. 415-282-7467.

Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley. Experience the Victorian charm of old San Francisco in designer's beautiful, spacious, three-room suite with private entrance. Delicious fare, reasonable rates, two blocks to 24th Street. "A Victorian Legacy." Call Patricia, 648-8879.

Homework Hassles? StudyBuddy can help: credentialed teacher, reasonable rates. 586-4577.

Need Some Help Realizing That Dream? I can help you set goals and reach them, whether they involve school, a job, a project, or a relationship. Twenty years' experience helping people of all ages and backgrounds make their lives go the way they want them to. Ann Bartz, 415-641-4065.

Phil's Window Cleaning Service. Reliable/courteous. Free estimates for residential/commercial. 668-8310.

Summer Cottage Vacation Rentals by the week or month. One block to 24th Street. Dave, 282-4492. www.hidden-cottage.com.

Cultivating Forgiveness: A Talk by Swami Ramananda. Deeply painful experiences can create resentment and anger that are held like protective armor around the heart. This talk will introduce the process of forgiveness, freeing us from barriers to being fully ourselves and compassionate with others. Tuesday, May 2, 6 to 8 p.m. \$10. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Need a Driver to take you grocery shopping, doctor's office, etc.? Retired dependable businessman is at your service. Excellent references. \$15 an hour. Bill: 826-3613.

Audio Design Services for home or office. Avoid salesman-hype and save substantial \$ as a result. I will analyze your listening interests and space and budget constraints and configure the best-sounding, most cost-effective system to meet your needs. Interior design considerations and system flexibility to facilitate future expansions/upgrades also included. 40 years audiophile experience. Reasonable rates. Initial consultation free. 415-285-8482.

Therapeutic, Nurturing Swedish / Esalen style massage by certified massage therapist in warm Noe Valley home studio, Sanchez and 24th Street. Website: www.peterlace.com/massage. Phone: 415-970-9277.

Office Cleaning. Excellent references. Thorough, reliable, professional, and reasonably priced. Offering service seven days a week. For more details, call Fina, 650-755-4062.

Office Space Available to Sublet in a suite of established offices. A perfect office for psychotherapists, massage therapists, or writers. Beautifully furnished, freshly painted office in the heart of Noe Valley on 24th Street. Shared waiting room and bathroom. Full days and half days available. Call 821-7517 for more information

Noe Valley Office Space Wanted to rent four days or more per week. I am a responsible bodyworker and movement educator in private practice for over 25 years. Please call 648-1718.

Charlie the Phone Guy. Residence and business telephone systems, fax/modem lines, office-in-home. Dead phone jacks brought back to life! Separate jacks for roommates. Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654.

Home Care, Elder Care. Experienced R.N. "adapted to your needs." Insured and bonded. Sliding scale. 415-824-1253.



Wanted to Rent: Garage, storage area, or whole house, long-term. Petsitter/animal advocate, 45, never bothers landlord with minor repairs, very self-reliant. San Francisco resident since 1977. Bob, 415-282-7467.

Time for a Change? I believe you already know everything you need to know to live a rich and fulfilling life. Sometimes, though, we lose touch with this knowledge. Psychotherapy can help you reconnect. Life transitions, identity issues, chronic illness, mind/body connections, anxiety/panic, grief, creativity, lesbian/gay issues, depression, early traumas, and cross-cultural issues are my areas of interest and experience. Sliding scale. Marilyn Jean, M.F.T. #35206. Noe Valley. 789-8506.

Clean & Natural: Housecleaning service. Licensed, bonded. Call Simone, 415-303-9865 or 415-577-8188; cleannaturalsg@aol.com.

Telecommunications Wiring. Telephone, computer, co-ax, speaker, intercom. Home or business. Experienced, reasonable, reliable. Kent, 415-401-0214.

Sunny View B&B in Twin Peaks. Minutes to famous F trolley line to Fisherman's Wharf, Castro District, J Church line, subway, downtown shopping and stores, hospitals; K Union Square in 12 minutes. Cable, TV, tasty breakfast. Well-appointed decor and quiet. Patio rose garden. Shared kitchen, laundry, and bath. Private half-bath. Two night minimum. Garage available. Perfect for family and friends, business travelers. 415-863-9550, ext. 4.

Licensed Painter. Interior and exterior. Also, plaster and drywall repair. Small jobs okay. License #497-214. Please call Ed at 995-4666. Free estimates.

Fog City Dog now accepting clients for canine exercise group. Noe Valley resident. Reasonable rates, senior discounts. Bonded. Lou, 824-9374.



Gardening: creative and efficient planting, pruning, and maintenance using organic methods. Innovative designs and renovations. 415-626-1258.

Stressless Housecleaning...because life's hectic enough. Superior quality. Customized cleaning. Free estimates. Call Jeanine, 564-2877.

All Things Macintosh: Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring, and more. References. Roslyn, 510-526-1209.

Do You Need Housecleaning? We'll do it. References. \$13 per hour. Call Marco and Sara, 643-1262.

Workplace Personal Mentoring/Coaching. Having problems succeeding/surviving an unfriendly workplace? Thirty years experience handling chaotic/abusive situations. Especially effective helping women manage male environments. Compassionate, savvy, licensed family therapist with graduate degrees in both individual and organizational psychology. Three published books on work. 415-285-6751. Noe Valley. Workshops available. Email: workfamily@workmail.com.

Therapeutic Swedish or Deep Tissue Massage. Relax in the comfort of your own home or get away from it all in mine. First-time clients only, \$35 per hour (\$10 extra for out-calls). Evening and weekend appointments available. Strictly non-sexual. Call Jamine at 415-305-7250.

Start Your Healing Journey. Gentle, practical, individual and couples therapy by experienced Marriage and Family Therapist. Sliding scale. Free 15-minute phone consultation. Lesbian/gay/bi/straight welcome. Noe Valley. Julie DePinna Armer, M.A., M.F.C. lic. #36609. Call 415-882-1161.

Quaint "Victorian Garden" B&B near 26th and Sanchez. Private and ground level, living room, fireplace, bathroom, bedroom with queen-size bed, office nook, flower-filled patio/garden, laundry facilities, phone, sound system, cable TV, plentiful breakfast items. Apartment is lovely and quiet. Two-night minimum. Call 206-0202.

Home and Office Cleaning. Excellent references. Thorough, reliable, professional, and reasonably priced. Offering service seven days a week. For more details, call Leia, 650-755-4062.

Mac or iMac Computer? Need Help? I can...help you clean up your computer, get your computer talking to your printer and modem, set up e-mail and the web, etc. I am the tech coordinator at an elementary school. Evenings and weekends in your home. 641-7062.

Experience Relief from Stress, muscular tension, and pain, and improvement in flexibility, posture, and coordination through the Feldenkrais Method Awareness Through Movement class. Slow, gentle movements, safe for people of all ages. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Monday evenings, 8 to 9 p.m. Anne Roberti, GCFP, 415-824-1590.

House Cleaning...homes, offices, apartments. References available; honest person. Call 650-758-2496. Mrs. Selva and Sheila.

Dot-Com'ers, Writers, Artists — need help coping with stress, lifestyle changes and choices, personal issues, emotional upsets? As a psychotherapist who is also a visual artist, I am very familiar with the emotional and practical challenges creative, innovative, thoughtful people face at work and at home. I counsel individuals, couples, and groups. I've been in private practice for over 25 years; am opening an office on Church St. Health insurance accepted. For an introductory appointment, call Karen Balos, Ph.D., L.C.S.W. (Lic. # LCS3571), 510-271-0159; balos@flash.net.

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Furniture Wanted. I need old and antique dressers, tables, desks, etc. Any condition. Paying cash. Estimates also. Karen, 415-647-6157.

See Original Dog Products at www.lionphotoaux-invention.com.

Web Site Design. 415-643-2800. www.hand-shake.com; mail@hand-shake.com.

Spinning Web Gardening Service. Cleanups, pruning, pest control, planting, consultations, renovation. Call Barbara, 550-6923.

Indian Vegetarian Cooking Class. Come prepare and enjoy eating a festive South Indian meal taught by Pam Vaid. She spent four months in Coimbatore learning cooking in Indian homes. Sunday, May 21, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$35. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Cash for Old Wood Furniture, antiques, and old things. Jim at 621-4390 or 585-1901 evenings.

Word Processing (expertise: legal/medical). Audio/ videotape transcription, editing, resumes, and letter composition, including complaint letters. 24-hour phone-in dictation system. Dena Reiner, 415-821-4661.

Bed and Breakfast, Noe Valley. 826-1158.

Your Nest Egg May Have a Crack. Long-term nursing care for yourself or aging relatives could wipe out a lifetime of savings and create tremendous stress on family members. Medicare does not cover long-term care, and Medicaid will require that you "spend down" your assets. Financial planners and accountants recommend Long Term Care Insurance as the most viable solution. For third-party articles or a free, no pressure consultation, call Bill Hannant at 415-647-7012.

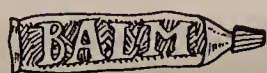
Upholstery. We repair, rebuild, and recover overstuffed chairs, ottomans, sofas, and dining chairs. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Jorge Meraz-Baca, 282-2256.

Secretarial Services: W/P, resumes, letters, book-keeping. All types of general office projects. Helene, 415-334-9853.

Are Old Traumas Keeping You Stuck in feelings of anxiety or depression? Recovery from traumas such as childhood abuse or sexual assault allows you to move forward in life. Compassionate psychotherapy transforms old wounds. E.M.D.R. Sliding scale. Noe Valley. Liz Stolz Kughn, M.A. 415-522-2378. Experienced M.F.T. Intern, #29612. Supervised by Cynthia Kong, M.F.T. #15396.

Vacation Room Rental, Upper Noe Valley. Clean, safe, comfortable. Ideal for visiting family. Sue, 415-821-4890.

The Guy Was Growing Shorter every day, so he went to his doctor, who told him he'd just have to be a little patient. To complain about this Class Ad, email zabarska@aol.com.



Property Owners! Thinking about remodeling or adding to your building or constructing a new building? Get the creative input your project needs from an experienced architect. Call Mike Hager at 285-7409. In Noe Valley since 1981; 28 years experience.

Substance Abuse Counseling. Confidential. Compassionate, certified. Bernal Heights location. Eric Denner, M.B.A., C.A.D.C. 415-824-4541.

Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley. Parents or friends coming, and no room for them? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, antique furnishings. Convenient to 24th Street and J-Church line. Oliver House, 415-695-0700.

Trees, Shrubs, Hedges. Professional arborist, neighborhood resident. Twenty-plus years of experience. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Call with any garden questions. Bill Squire, 826-6160.

Yoga Modifications for Back Care. Don't let stiffness or back pain keep you from practicing yoga. This workshop will teach ways to relieve pain and strengthen your back. Tuesday, May 23, 6 to 8 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Furniture Restoration. Complete antique and modern furniture restoration. Careful European craftsmanship. Expert refinishing. Custom upholstery, caning, veneering. Quality repairing. Competitive prices. Impressive portfolio and references. Free estimate, pickup, and delivery. Call Boris, 415-587-3416.

CLAS ADS

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Living Tai Chi Chuan of Noe Valley. Meditation, Qigong, Tai Chi forms. Friendly, non-competitive. Monday and Tuesday, 6 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., Douglass Park, Douglass at 27th. \$5 introduction (Mondays excluded). Chris Sequeira, practicing since 1973. 650-756-6857; 415-773-8185.

Tax Preparation and Consulting. My 11-year-old practice consists largely of self-employed individuals, many of whom are artists or musicians. I also specialize in helping nonfilers, audit representation, offers-in-compromise, and prebankruptcy tax planning. Call Alan Steger, E.A., 415-387-3057.



Overwhelmed by Clutter? As featured on KPIX, NPR, and the *Chronicle*, ShipShape has expertly helped overworked professionals, frazzled moms, and harassed homeowners cut through clutter and restore simplicity and peace of mind to their busy lives. Homes, offices, closets, relocations, and more. Free phone consultation/brochure. Call 415-550-0658.

Are You Experiencing Transitions in your life? I work with couples who are wanting to achieve more fulfillment in their relationships or are contemplating marriage. Adolescents who are facing the myriad choices and questions of this transitional time. Individuals who are seeking assistance through life's transitions and want to feel more grounded in their choices. Chris Kughn, M.F.T. Intern #34106, supervised by Julie Albert, M.F.T. #28884. Noe Valley office. Call 415-241-8869.

Cleaninghouse. Home, office, apartment, and apartment building maintenance cleaning. 14 years experience. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513.

Piano Lessons in Noe Valley: Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 20 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical or popular repertoire, MIDI lab. Barbara Bannett, 648-1007.

Liz's Unique Bed and Breakfast. Old world charm at affordable rates. Guests will awaken to the fragrance of homemade delicacies and fresh ground coffee. Call Liz, a gracious and knowledgeable hostess. 415-648-2515.

Imagine a Watercolor of Your Home or business. Great for color business cards or greeting cards. Commissions from \$85, plus tax. Specializing in houses, cityscapes, gardens, and views of San Francisco. Free consultation. You'll see samples of my work and we'll discuss your idea for a painting. Call Susan Sternau at 285-0696, or look at my work first at www.artmecca.com.

Rental Short-Term: Noe Valley view location; two guest suites with furnished living/bedroom areas, private baths, private phone lines, private entrances; shared kitchen/laundry; ideal for visiting family/friends, business travelers; weekly, monthly rates. 285-7189.

Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans. Calistoga/St. Helena area. Three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream, woods, and meadow; fireplace with wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream; ornamental fish pond. One week minimum, \$500. May rent additional nights for \$70 per night, or by the month for \$1,750. Discount to repeat guests. Phone and fax, 415-647-3052.

Guitar Lessons. Noe Valley, Bernal Heights. Former Pickle Family Circus music director, composer of Academy Award-winning film. B.A. Berklee, 20 years of teaching experience. All ages, beginners welcome. Fun, reasonable. Mark, 282-8244.

Hauling. Schlepper Bros. Fast, fair, and fantastic. Yogic, caring, and brave. Y2K, sustainability activist. 824-4214.

Yoga Practices for Asthma. Learn yoga postures, breathing practices, and other techniques to strengthen your lungs, increase breathing capacity, and minimize dependence upon medications. Wednesday, May 3, 6 to 8 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Need an Extra Bedroom/Bath for visiting relatives or friends? Rent ours. No frills. Low cost. 282-2550.

Got Goals? Get a Coach! Want to write a book, get a new job? Want to improve your relationship or get into one? Want to clarify your highest values and learn how to live them? Call for free introductory session. Valerie Hearn, Ph.D. 415-824-3701, vhearn@earthlink.net.

Home and Office Cleaning. Excellent references. Thorough, reliable, professional, and reasonably priced. Offering service seven days a week. For more details, call Rosanja, 415-255-8506.

Handier Andy. Home repairs, everything from sheetrock, carpentry, and painting to tiling...and small jobs in between. 564-1175.

Looking for a Babysitter? Large experience, excellent references. Full or part time. Call 650-994-2325, Michelle.

The Journey of Pre-Marriage. A six-week group for couples exploring the realms of engagement. Clarify your intentions for marriage and navigate the process of engagement in a safe and supportive atmosphere. Limited to four couples. Call Chris Kughn, M.A., M.F.T. intern # 34106, supervised by Julie Albert, M.F.T. # 28884, at 415-241-8869 for more information and initial interview.

Room Available. Small bedroom available in Victorian condo from May 23 through July 30. Dates are flexible. \$175 per week. 648-8614.

Computer Helper. Macintosh and PC. Help with email, web surfing, online auctions, publishing your own basic web page, and installing computer upgrades. You "drive," so you learn! First time, half price. \$40 per hour, in your home. Bryan, 401-0639.

Health Rider Exerciser for Sale. \$50. Call Jamie at 415-469-5398.

30-Year Anniversary Open House! Join us in celebrating our 30th year in San Francisco with a day of free Hatha Yoga classes, a video of Sri Satchidananda, a meditation, and snacks for everyone. Saturday, May 13. 8 a.m., Hatha I, IA, and III; 9:30 a.m., Hatha I, IA, and II; 11 a.m., Hatha I, IA, Spanish Hatha, and video of Sri Swami Satchidananda; 12:40 p.m., open meditation with snacks after. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

SFSU Grad Student Needs Tutor for Pagemaker 6.5, Illustrator, and Photoshop, on his PC in Noe Valley or on a tutor's Mac. Hourly negotiable. Phone 282-2797.

Gourmet Vegetarian Cuisine delivered to your doorstep. Diverse menus, naturally low in fat, cholesterol, and salt. Treat yourself right! Gift certificates available. For a monthly menu call Jane, 826-2133; www.sirius.com/~scottsfjane.html.

Tax Preparation for individuals, financial services for travelers and the distracted. Enrolled agent licensed to represent clients before the IRS. Reasonable rates. 10% discount on first tax return with this ad. 415-695-1819. Gretchen Beck, E.A.

The Scoop on Class Ads

IT'S EASY. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **30¢ A WORD**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as just one word.)

Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15TH OF THE MONTH** before the month you'd like to advertise in. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

10 FOR 10 DISCOUNT: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the June 2000 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on June 2. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS MAY 15, 2000.**

Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or email at this time. However, there's one consolation: The ads are displayed on our web site at no extra charge: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you.

Housecleaner Available. 12 years experience. Wonderful references. I speak English, and own car. Call Rosane at 415-885-2215.

Transform Your Jungle into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.

Trash the Throwaway Society! Recycle technology! Will take your non-functioning technological objects. 415-282-SHOP (7467).

Neighborhood Haulers. Relocations: man and truck, \$35 per hour. Debris removal. Free estimates. Our 17th year. 415-282-7467.

Words Wanted: The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Send manuscript and self-addressed, stamped envelope, plus name, phone, and email to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.



DO VISIT US ONLINE!

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NOE BUYS / NOE RENTS

Don't Read This If You're Still Looking for a Place

Here are the latest figures on house sales and apartment rentals, supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate on 24th Street and Rent Tech Rentals and Roommates. (Note that the rental data this time covers three months, January through March 2000. In both surveys, "Noe Valley" is defined as the area bounded by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.) The tables show that March home buyers had to bid 10 to 25 percent over the asking price to land a piece of property in Noe Valley, and that renters are paying 60 percent more for housing than what they paid four years ago. You also might be interested to learn that San Francisco General Hospital offers free stress management classes, or that the San Francisco Rent Board's counseling and information line is (415) 252-4600. —Sally Smith, Editor

Noe Valley House Sales – March 2000*

| Total Sales | Low Price (\$) | High Price (\$) | Average Price (\$) | Average Days on Market | Sale Price as % of List Price |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Single-family homes</i> | | | | | |
| 12 | \$ 535,000 | 1,455,000 | 842,125 | 18 | 125% |
| <i>Condominiums</i> | | | | | |
| 4 | \$ 375,000 | 975,000 | 695,000 | 13 | 111% |
| <i>2 to 4 unit buildings</i> | | | | | |
| 3 | \$ 670,000 | 1,100,000 | 853,335 | 20 | 112% |
| <i>5+ unit buildings</i> | | | | | |
| 0 | — | — | — | — | — |

Noe Valley Rents – 1st Quarter 2000**

| Apartment Size | Average Rents Today (Jan – Mar 2000) | Rents 4 Years Ago (Jan – Mar 1996) | % of Units for Rent Today in Noe Valley |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Studio | \$ 1,115 / mo. | \$ 675 / mo. | 9% |
| 1 bedroom | 1,625 / mo. | 990 / mo. | 25% |
| 2 bedrooms | 2,400 / mo. | 1,375 / mo. | 40% |
| 3 or more bedrooms | 2,850 / mo. | 2,110 / mo. | 25% |

*Information provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) and based on Noe Valley home sales for the period March 1–31, 2000.

**Data based on Noe Valley apartments listed by Rent Tech Rentals and Roommates (www.renttech.com) for January through March 2000 and for the same period in 1996.

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Mays Days

By Mazook

I KNEW SPRING HAD SPRUNG when I got on the J-Church for my first trip to Willie Mays Plaza to see the Giants and encountered several other Noe Valleons boarding the streetcar with me, all with Giants hats on and ready to cheer the home team. To my surprise, there were more baseball fans packed inside the car.

The ride to the park was a piece of cake. Muni was meant for baseball.

It looks like Church Street will be crowded with locals on game days, with everybody waiting for the train and singing, "Take me out to the ball game, and take me home again."

By the way, we beat the Milwaukee Brewers, which was great, even if it was an exhibition game.

☎ ☎ ☎

"MAY DAYS" are spouting from the Upper Noe Neighbors about the rampant upscaling—and I mean *up*—of the neighborhood. UNN President Vicki Rosen said she expected the group's April 27 meeting to be hot enough to raise the rafters. "We're going to talk about all the demolition and megaconstruction crap that's been going on everywhere these days. We've been contacted by neighbors with terrible situations on their blocks, [with] construction totally out of character with the neighborhood."

Claims Vicki, "City Planning is acting like Prop. M doesn't have any standing, and the attitude is, Build as much as you can for as much money as you can."

She worries that "if we build to accommodate all the people who want to live here, we will destroy why people came here to live in the first place."

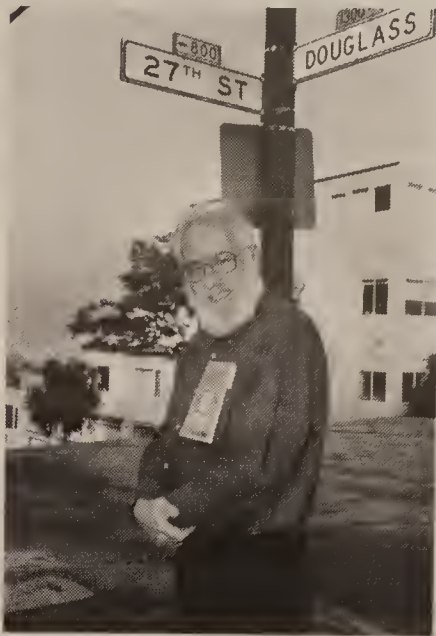
Upper Noe Neighbors' next meeting will be on the last Thursday of the month (May 25) at the Upper Noe Recreation Center. By the way, the group has recently changed its bylaws, so you have to be a member for 60 days before you can vote.

Meanwhile, Friends of Noe Valley is also getting hot under the collar about the alleged "Manhattanization" of the neighborhood. Their May 11 meeting at the library will feature a discussion of our new skyscrapers, plus a preview of the Mission YMCA's plans to open a new Y on Clipper Street. (Now there's a megaconstruction even I could get behind.)

☎ ☎ ☎

EAST & WEST OF CASTRO STREET Improvement Club President Paul Kantus says his group is talking about putting more benches on 24th Street. "I think it's a good idea to have places for people to sit on our commercial strip that aren't tied to the food-service businesses," says Paul. "We have enough money in our treasury to buy new benches for the street."

The group (along with Friends of Noe Valley) is also backing Supervisor Leland Yee's blockbuster proposal to beef up zoning rules for new video stores in 16 shopping areas across the city, including 24th Street. The measure was just adopted by the Planning Commission and is on its way to the Board of Supes. The new rules require any video store that wants to open up in these highly trafficked areas to apply for a special permit and undergo a public hearing. Paul likes this law because it gives neighborhood groups more control over things like signs, hours, modes of dropoff, parking, whatever.



Harry Stern, longtime 25th Street resident and Friends of Noe Valley co-president, has been appointed by Supervisor Mark Leno to the Citizens Advisory Council advising the new Muni watchdog group, the Municipal Transit Agency. Stern chairs the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods' Transportation Committee and is also a member of Rescue Muni. Give 'em hell, Harry.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

He's a tad worried, however, about the lack of traffic at East & West meetings. "Our membership has dropped from about 450 a few years ago to around 300 now, and our meetings have fallen in attendance." That's too bad, because the East & West's are the best street-sweepers and graffiti-eradicators in the neighborhood. And don't forget those benches.

If you'd like to check out Noe Valley's longest-running residents' group (since 1904), East & West meets at the Noe Valley - Sally Brunn Library on the first Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m.

☎ ☎ ☎

THE PERENNIAL PARKING PROBLEM in Downtown Noe Valley has the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association looking very hard for solutions.

The group has circulated petitions to create diagonal parking on the 1300, 1400 and 1500 blocks of Castro Street (from 24th to Clipper). According to NVMPA President Bob Roddick, more than 50 percent of the residents of those blocks have signed the petitions, which would create angled parking on both sides of the 1300 and 1400 block and on the James Lick Middle School side of the 1500 block.

The petitions have been sent to the city's Traffic Engineer in the hope that they will get the hearing process rolling.

☎ ☎ ☎

FRIENDS OF NOE VALLEY Co-President ("I prefer to be called newsletter editor") Harry Stern has been named by Supervisor Mark Leno to the 15-member Citizens Advisory Council, set up to advise the Municipal Transit Agency (our new Muni caretaker). Harry, who's lived on 25th Street for 15 years, is a member of both Rescue Muni and SPUR (San Francisco Planning and Urban Research). He also chairs the transportation committee of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods.

A retired engineer — he's originally from New York — Harry views his appointment as an opportunity "to both implement the necessary performance changes and turn around the public perception of Muni from negative to positive. Though some people are planning tunnels under the city, I think that's premature and misguided. All that does is enhance the attractiveness of the automobile. Our first priority should be to enhance the attractiveness of public transit, which is the only way to get people out of their cars."

Unfortunately, about the same time Harry got word of his appointment, he received some tough medical news from his doctor, and he is undergoing treatment right now. "I'll be inactive for a month or

two," he says, "and then I'll get back to working on the bunching of streetcars—something near and dear to my heart."

Get better soon, Harry.

☎ ☎ ☎

MARKET QUOTES: It is always news when any kind of public notice is posted on a storefront in Downtown Noe Valley. But when it is an application for the transfer of a liquor license pasted on the door of Bell Market, then it is very big news.

The "application for a change of ownership" said the "new" owner would be Ralph's Market. Ralph's, the big Southern California supermarket chain, does own Bell. But that's not news, folks.

According to Terry O'Neil, spokesperson for Ralph's Grocery Company, which assumed ownership of Bell Markets back in '95, "Bell will now receive its liquor directly from a Ralph's warehouse rather than from a direct store delivery supplier." The "Ralph's" label will be popping up on other shelves as well.

O'Neil also let it be known that Ralph's would be upgrading the store over the next year, so we can all look for a better Bell. Just don't change the name, okay?

☎ ☎ ☎

NOE VALLEY'S southbound commuters should be wary of a speed trap in and around the intersection of Dolores and 30th streets. Police have posted a 25 mph digital sign from time to time, and have been nailing those in a hurry.

Evidently, there have been a lot of out-bound Dolores drivers overanticipating their I-280 commute. Coming the other way are the inbounders, weary and impatient after putting in 12-hour days in the dot-com millionaire derby. Everyone wants to make that dang light at 30th.

An increased police presence has also increased the issuance of parking tickets for cars clogging the center medians along Dolores Street.

☎ ☎ ☎

SHORT SHRIFTS: It looks as if the old A&A Market at 25th and Sanchez is about ready to reopen. Not as a corner grocery, but as a laundry.... Construction has started on retrofitting St. Paul's Cathedral, so drive carefully on Church... It's big news in outer Noe Valley that Hungry Joe's is finally handing out printed menus (the place opened in 1979)... That was Dave Monks (Noe Valley Democratic Club prez) on the April 18 edition of KRON's *Bay Area Backroads*, showing off his map and guide to movie locations in San Francisco. I like the *Vertigo* stops the best...Tully's coffeehouse on 24th Street was giving out free coffee to any IRS employee or certified public accountant (who produced their ID or business card) from April 12 to 17. That's nice... Lovejoy's Tea Room is under new ownership. I'll let you know the scoop next time.

☎ ☎ ☎

TOP OF THE POPS at Streetlight Records is the brand new Elliot Smith CD called *Figure Eight*. Streetlighter Laura Horsfall says it's "inde-folk-rock" type music. "He writes and performs his own stuff," says Laura.

Down at Aquarius Records, flying out the door is *Reggie and the Full Effect*, by a band of the same name. Aquarius's Andy Connors says the music is "weird pop," and he thinks this will probably be the Midwestern group's "farewell disc, since the band members play with other groups and this was a side collaboration."

For those of you still reading, Cory Combs of Cover to Cover reports that the store's current bestseller in the fiction category is *Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. It's available in paperback.

In the nonfiction category, the winner is Anne Fadiman's *The Spirit Catches You*

Continued on Next Page

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MARY McFADDEN, PROPRIETOR

RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

and You Fall Down—A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collusion of Two Cultures. The title tells it all.

Noe Valley's favorite video at First Choice Video, according to Tony D'lessandro, is *Fight Club*, starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton. First Choice is on the corner of Church and 24th Street and used to be known as West Coast Video.

In any event, Tony has owned the place and has been renting out videos at that location since 1984. Do you know the name of the business which occupied that space before then? Clue: The same kind of business was also in the space now filled by Cotton Basics on the corner of 24th and Castro. The name was that of a planet.

Over at Noe Valley Video, your favorite is *Boys Don't Cry*, starring Academy Award winning Best Actress Hilary Swank and supported by A.A. nominee Chloe Sevigny.

Now you are wondering where Noe Valley Video is located. Well, that is the new name of 21st Century Video, which is located near Ralph's, no, Bell Market in the heart of Downtown Noe Valley.

According to owners Marlene and Brian Dunleavy, "we were forming a company, applied for a trademark, and found that a video producer in New Jersey owned the name, so we changed it to something neighborhood-friendly." Is there a Noe Valley Video in Jersey?

Over at Castro Street's Video Wave, which is *not* changing its name, *The Limey*, starring Terence Stamp, is the one that's always out, so reservations are recommended. The best time to show up is when the doors open on Monday.

☎ ☎ ☎

IT'S MONDAY MORNING, so I gotta go. Before I depart, the answer to the riddle above is: Mercury Pharmacy. Bye, kids. ☐

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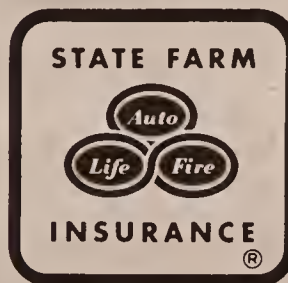
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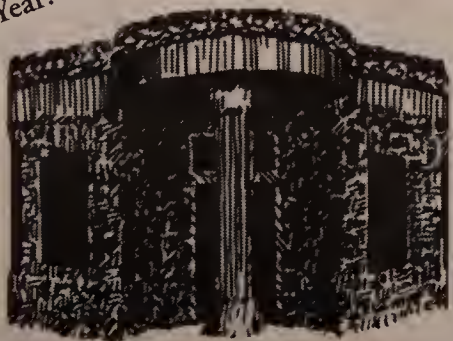
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Poems

by

Francisco Aragon

A View from the Park

A clear afternoon and the Bay Bridge
 arcing
 like a bow
 to Treasure Island: a view
 tourists could buy
 at Fisherman's Wharf

but for the smudge
 clouding the tip of the Pyramid—panels
 deflecting the sun glint
 through, as if a beacon thinly shrouded in fog
 were blinking a code across the city

to this green slope: a park named after
 a mission...

Dolores Dolores
 —it simmers on my tongue, is
Pains in Spanish, is
 her name... And beyond the grass

a dark-haired woman
 crouching
 in the sand
 saying to a small boy, ¡Sácate los dedos
 de la boca! *Take your fingers
 out of your mouth!*



THE LAST PAGE

Jugglers

She and I on a bench eating prawns:

the first day of her fiftieth year and she points
 at two street performers about to juggle
 fire and a distant summer morning

surfaces, afloat on the light wind blowing
 off the bay—older sisters are hiding in the dark,
 big brother is parading around the house

his hands outstretched and clutching large candles
I'm on a search! he shouts
 marching from room to room

till he finds them huddling in a jungle
 of clothes, his beacons flickering as flame-
 hot wax begins to flow across his fingers...

while she is walking to Centro Adulto, her head brimming
 with phrases: the words she needs to learn so she can quit
 sewing, land a job in a bank...and the sitter

is arriving minutes late, finding us wet
 and trying to save a coat, a shirt, a dress—it's
 a small one: nothing the green hose

and frantic assembly line of buckets
 doesn't eventually douse, leaving walls and curtains
 the color of coal—*¡Mira!* she gasps

her left hand rapping my shoulder, still pointing with the right
 as the torches,
 from one juggler to the other,

begin to fly

in memory of my mother (1932–1997)

San Francisco, 1985

to D.G.

It rolled past the Castro—
 marquee big with NORTH

BY NORTHWEST—and slowed
 to a stop. He was at the corner

outside *Twin Peaks*, spotting me near
 the front facing out the door—the seats

reserved for the elderly and disabled
 just behind the driver. Our eyes

met briefly before he turned
 to his right and shouted your name

across the busy street, yelling
 that I was on this one,

for you to come back.
 You'd begun the jog, the game

you both played—here comes
 the 24-Divisadero:

Who will reach Alpine first:
 you on foot, or him on wheels?

But you re-cross Market, both
 of you boarding the bus—alive

with holiday shoppers coursing
 through the city, the three of us

exchanging phrases the short ride
 together and I almost don't say it

turning to him anyway:
How are you feeling?

You smile touching my sleeve.
 And so it's this. This is what stays,

what sticks to me. Gone
 sooner than we'd expected:

I never made it to Alta Bates.
 Afraid, perhaps, I'd undo

a ride on Muni one
 December afternoon.

Francisco Aragon was born and raised on Fair Oaks Street. His travels have included a 10-year residency in Spain. Now a graduate student at the University of California at Davis, he is completing his master's in creative writing and finishing his first full-length book, a bilingual collection of poems.

Aragon's work has appeared in both print and new media. He is the author of "Light, Yogurt, Strawberry Milk" (*Chicano Chapbook Series #26*, edited by Gary Soto), and his poems and translations have appeared in various journals, including *Chelsea*, *Luna*, *ZYZZYVA*, and *Poetry Flash*. His work will appear in *American Diaspora: Poetry of Exile*, to be published by University of Iowa Press later this year.

Aragon also has published poems on the Web. One piece lives in the poetry section of *KONCH Magazine* (www.ishmaelreedpub.com), a site edited by his former teacher, the novelist, essayist, and poet Ishmael Reed. Aragon also has three poems in *Jacket* (www.jacket.zip.com.au/welcome.htm), edited by Australian poet John Tranter.

In 1999, Francisco Aragon won an Academy of American Poets Prize. *Voice* readers may recall his poem "The Last Days of My Visit," published in our May 1997 issue. Aragon can be reached at fjaron@ucdavis.edu.

THE LAST PAGE

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for publication on The Last Page. Please mail manuscripts, which should be no more than 1,200 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email jaxvoice@aol.com. Don't forget to include a phone number, and an SASE if you want your manuscript returned. We look forward to hearing from you.



Dolores Park, 2000

Photo by Charles Kennard